



Residential Use of Outdoor Fireplaces and Barbecues

Definitions:

Fireplace: A structure or device with a box or chamber designed to contain a fire and fitted with a spark arrestor. A fireplace *does not* include an open pit or ring. Open burning is not allowed within the City of Chico.

Exception: Listed gas fueled appliances

Barbecue: A device, structure, or pit, fitted with cooking grates, grills, or appliances, intended for the cooking of food.

General Requirements:

The operation of an outdoor fireplace, barbecue, or gas-fueled appliance is allowed within the City of Chico without a permit. (CMC 16R.42.070). However, the following safety precautions must be met.

- Open burning of rubbish, weeds, yard waste, and similar material is prohibited (16R.42.060)
- Burning shall be in accordance with air emission standards required by Butte County Air Quality Management District [BCAQMD] (CFC 1102.3.1; CMC 16R.42.080)
- Fireplaces must be located at least 25 feet from combustible structures or storage. Dry vegetation, weeds, and any conditions which would allow a fire to spread must be kept clear of fireplaces and barbecue pits (CFC 1102.4.2)
- The fireplace chimney must have a spark arrestor with openings no larger than ½ inch (CFC 1109.7)
- A water bucket, garden hose, or fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 4A must be readily available (CFC 1102.4.3)
- A person knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment must be in attendance at all times until the fire is extinguished (CFC 1102.4.4).

Additional Requirements for Barbecues (cooking fires)

- Food for human consumption must be present at the burn site.
- The fire must be contained within an approved container or a BBQ pit. Barbecues shall not be located within 10 Feet of any structure and shall have 10 feet of clearance to any combustible material (CFC 1102.5.2.2).
- Cooking rings or pits may not exceed 3 feet in diameter. Larger pits require a permit from the Fire Dept.
- Fires for cooking purposes shall be maintained at a minimum size sufficient for their purpose.

Fire personnel are authorized to require that any recreational or cooking fire be immediately discontinued if such fire is determined to be hazardous (CFC 1102.4.5)

Fire personnel are authorized to require that any recreational fire be immediately discontinued if the smoke from such fire is determined to create a nuisance (CMC 16R.42.080 B(1)(b); CFC 1102.3.8)