

## For Your Health & Safety:

- Never burn wood during air quality alert days when air pollution is already higher.
- Burning of these materials is prohibited in the State of Maine:
  - \* Treated wood
  - \* Asphalt Shingles
  - \* Plastics
  - \* Paper
  - \* Styrofoam
  - \* Cardboard
  - \* Wire Insulation
  - \* Mattresses
  - \* Vinyl Siding
  - \* Furniture
  - \* Asbestos-containing Materials
  - \* Tires
  - \* Rubber
  - \* Tar
  - \* Metals
  - \* Paints
  - \* Food Waste
  - \* Solvents
  - \* Chemicals
  - \* Sludge
  - \* Trash
  - \* Insulation
  - \* and other solid wastes
- Educate yourself on the health impacts of wood smoke, particularly on children and teenagers, older adults, and people with asthma or other heart and lung diseases.



For more information, see the EPA's Guidelines on Backyard Recreational Fires here: <https://www.epa.gov/burnwise/backyard-recreational-fires>



### Mount Desert Fire Department

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## Residential Fire Pits in the Town of Mount Desert





## RESIDENTIAL FIRE PITS

As the number of residential fire pits in our area increases, many residents are calling with questions about their own fire pit or about concerns with a neighbor's fire pit. Currently, the State of Maine has no regulations for fire pits. The Town of Mount Desert recommends the Fire Safety Standards set by the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry, for outdoor fireplaces, grills, and campsite inspections. These are very basic standards that promote common sense and outdoor fire safety.

## GUIDELINES

Mount Desert FD recommends the following:

- Do not locate a fire pit within 30 feet of a combustible structure.
- Remove surface fuels (leaves, twigs, grass) from the soil for a distance equal to the diameter of the fire pit. (example: a 24" diameter fire pit should have a 24" wide mineral strip surrounding the entire fire pit.)
- Ensure there are no overhanging branches closer than 15 feet from the fire pit.
- Keep the area surrounding the fire pit clear of underbrush and un-mowed grass for 15 feet in every direction.
- Keep the area around the fire pit clean and free of litter and other combustible materials.
- Have a water supply available to extinguish any fires that may start outside the designated fire pit.



## LOCATION



In addition to these guidelines, consider the following when choosing a location for your fire pit:

- What direction do the prevailing winds blow? Is smoke from your fire going to blow at a neighbor's house? If your fire is a nuisance to neighbors, you may be asked to extinguish it.
- Have you talked to your neighbor to let him/her know you are thinking of installing a fire pit? Having that conversation may save you from having a more difficult discussion later.
- If you are in a densely populated neighborhood, consider a smaller fire pit. Fire pits are usually built for ambiance and a large fire may make neighbors uncomfortable.