

# Recreational Fires, Religious Fires or Outdoor cooking fires, in the city of Cle Elum



## Lawful Burning

Requirements for recreational fires in the city of Cle Elum are defined both in International Fire Code and in WAC 173-425-050 (Washington Administrative Code). The elements of these two laws boil down to the following: **Definition:** Recreational fires or outdoor burning of charcoal or wood (not debris or rubbish) has a total fuel area of 3ft or less in diameter and two ft or less in height, are for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes. **CEMC 8.244.030** all fires must be contained unless otherwise authorized or by fire code official. (Must be in approved pit) **Burn barrels are not allowed. Fires used for debris or rubbish disposal are not considered recreational fires and are illegal.**

## Requirements

**Attendance:** Both WAC 173-425-050 and the International Fire Code mandate that recreational fires, portable outdoor fireplaces, or BBQ pits be attended by a person capable of extinguishing the fire (alert, awake and sober) until the fire is completely extinguished. Extinguished is defined as all parts of the fire being out and cold. If unattended burning is reported and determined by the City of Cle Elum Fire Department, we will extinguish it and file a report. Other regulatory agencies may follow up unattended burning reports with hefty fines.

**SIZE:** The International Fire Code indicates that total fuel area for the fire may not exceed 3 feet in diameter or 2 feet in height. **TOOLS:** The international Fire Code Requires that the attendant must have approved fire extinguishing equipment on hand for immediate use. Such equipment includes large portable fire extinguisher, (minimum 4A rating), shovels with sand or dirt, garden hoe, water truck or water barrel with buckets.

**LOCATION:** The International Fire Code (307.4.2 Recreational Fires) requires that recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (762mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. 307.4.3 Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with manufacturer and shall not be operated within 15 ft of structure.

## Unlawful Burning

**Prohibited Materials:** -WAC 173-425-050 (1) states that the following materials may not be burned in any outdoor fire. **Garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper (other than what is necessary to start a fire), cardboard, treated wood, construction/demolition debris, metal, or any substance (other than natural vegetation) that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned.**

### REFERANCES:

- 1) WAC Chapter 173-425 Outdoor Burning
- 2) International Fire Code

Using a burn barrel is illegal statewide.

**Residential Burning is not allowed. Definition:** Means the outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, pruning's and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling and burned on such lands by the property owner or his or her designee (RCW 70.94.750(1)).

**NO RESIDENTIAL BURNING IS ALLOWED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF Cle Elum (WAC 173-425-040)**

Only recreational fires, religious fires or cooking fires as stated in Lawful burning are allowed **Fires used for debris or rubbish disposal are not considered recreational fires and are illegal.**

**No open burning of any kind will be allowed during a burn ban with the exception of gas fired barbecue grills or any other approvals made by fire authority**