Recreational and Cooking Fire Regulations

Public Information Handout F-22

Recreational fires are allowed in the Cities of Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, Newcastle and Yarrow Point providing that fire safety requirements are met, and that air quality conditions allow outdoor burning.

Definitions
Recreational fire means cooking fires, and campfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes.

Air Quality Regulations
When air quality conditions are poor, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency may enact a ban on both indoor and outdoor burning. To determine if an air quality burn is in effect, call 1.800.595.4341 or visit their website www.pscleanair.org

Recreational Fires
Recreational fires are permitted provided the following requirements are met:
• No air quality burn ban is in effect
• The fire is not more than 3’ in diameter and 2’ in height.
• The fire is separated by 25’ from any combustible structures.
• Trash, yard waste, rubbish or paper products are not being burned.
• Fire extinguishing equipment is readily available for use. This should include a shovel, two buckets of water or a charged garden hose or fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating.
• The fire is continually attended by an adult until it is completely extinguished.
• The fire is not being conducted on public property where fires are prohibited, such as in a park or on school grounds. Fire in parks are only allowed where specifically authorized, and where appropriate burning receptacles are provided.

Prohibited Materials
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 charcoal or wood that has not been treated, painted or stained) that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned.

Use of Weed Burners
The use of weed burners is not permitted.

Use of Sky Lanterns
The use of sky lanterns is not permitted (see our Sky Lanterns handout for additional information)

Use of Portable Outdoor Fireplaces
Portable outdoor fireplaces may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material and may or may not be equipped with a short chimney.

Use of portable outdoor
fireplaces are allowed providing the following conditions are met.

Except for patio fireplaces at single family and duplexes, the fireplace is not placed on a deck or balcony and is not located within 15’ of a structure or combustible material or vegetation.

Use of the fireplace is consistent with the manufacturer’s instructions

• No air quality burn ban is in effect.
• Trash, yard waste, rubbish or paper products are not being burned.
• Fire extinguishing equipment is readily available for use. This should include a shovel two buckets of water or a charged garden hose or fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating.

Complaints and Hazardous Fires
If the fire department determines that your fire constitutes a hazard, the fire department will have you extinguish your fire.