

Arvada Fire Protection District
Fire Marshal's Office
Administrative Interpretation

Number	2018-03		
Subject	Outdoor Firepits in Commercial Occupancies		
Code Reference	2018 IFC section 307		
Jurisdiction	City of Arvada		
Effective Date	12/11/2018	Issued By	Scott Plumer
Revision Date	3/15/2021	Revised By	
Approval Date	12/11/2018	Approved By	Steven Parker

Purpose

To provide guidance and code interpretation for use of outdoor firepits in commercial occupancies.

Scope

This administrative interpretation applies to all commercial occupancies that desire to use outdoor firepits.

Description of Issue

Commercial occupancies are using outdoor firepits in close proximity to structures and the IFC does not directly address the issue. If the firepit is portable, then it can meet the definition of a *portable outdoor fireplace* and would be subject to a 15 feet clearance from a structure or combustible material. However, there is no definition in the IFC for an outdoor firepit. Therefore, an outdoor firepit could fall under the definition for *open burning* or *recreational fire*. The requirements for *open burning* are that the burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure. There are two exceptions:

1. For fires in *approved* containers, they shall be at least 15 feet from a structure.
2. For fires that are 3 feet or less in diameter or 2 feet or less in height, they shall be 25ft from a structure.

The requirements for a *recreational fire* are that they shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.

Therefore, an outdoor firepit that is in an *approved* container and is also ≤ 3 feet in diameter or ≤ 2 feet in height presents a contradiction.

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Decision

It has been decided that outdoor firepits can be allowed within 50 feet of a structure given the following conditions:

1. The firepit must be located in an approved location at least 15 feet from a structure.
2. If the building is equipped with fire sprinklers and there is an overhang in the area where the firepit is being used, then the overhang must have horizontal sidewall sprinkler protection.
3. If the firepit is powered by a fuel gas, then there must be an emergency stop button installed on the exterior of the wall to disconnect the fuel gas in the event of an emergency. This emergency shut off must also be labeled using a weatherproof sign with letters on a contrasting background.
4. If the firepit is powered by a fuel gas, then there must be a timer installed in the piping system to limit the run time of the fire pit to less than 60 minutes without needing a reset.
5. If the firepit is powered by a solid fuel, a fire extinguisher must be provided within 75 feet of travel distance and per IFC section 906.
6. Provide documented notification to the firepit owner that the firepit is subject to Stage 1 fire restrictions and Stage 2 fire bans as specified by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.
7. Provide documented notification to the firepit owner that the firepit is not to be used while unattended.
8. Provide documented notification to the firepit owner that 3 feet of clearance must be maintained to all combustibles around the firepit.