

# CITY OF WELLAND

## BACK-YARD FIRES – A QUICK GUIDE **FOLLOW THE RULES FOR FIRE SAFETY**

If you want to have a campfire, chiminea, barbecue or grill fire, or light patio torches in your backyard, you must follow all of the rules set out in the Open-Air Fire by-law for **Exempt** fires. Provided you follow all of the rules for each type of Exempt fire there is no permit required, and no fees.

*The basic rules are summarized on this brochure.*

### Campfires and Chimineas (recreational fires).

- You must have the property Owner's permission to have a fire and it must be in the back-yard.
- The fire cannot be closer than 3 meters to the property line.
- You can only have a recreational fire between **4 pm** and **11 pm** daily and not on a smog day.
- A Responsible adult must supervise it at all times. Alcohol or drugs and fire safety do not mix.
- The fire must be completely contained within a proper metal/masonry/ceramic fire device. Some acceptable examples are shown on this brochure. Fire pits on the ground with or without rocks or rings are not acceptable.
  - All openings must be completely covered by tight fitting metal spark screen(s) in which no opening is larger than 6 mm (just small than the diameter of a pencil).
  - The hearth area must not be more than 66 centimeters wide and fuel pile no taller than 66 centimeters.
- All fuels must be completely contained within the fire device and screens.
- The fire device must not be on a combustible surface and must be at least 3 meters away from and 5 meters below anything that could burn. Take all necessary care to prevent fire spread.
- The smoke must not be a nuisance to your neighbours, and may not cross a public road.
- You can only burn clean dry wood that has not been chemically treated, painted, stained, OR
  - natural/propane gas in an approved appliance, OR
  - commercial charcoal products.
- You must have on hand a charged garden hose or extinguisher or 15 liter pail of water.
- You must have on hand a telephone to call the fire department if needed.
- You must put the fire out completely before leaving it.
- YOU are responsible for any negative consequences of having a fire, and can be fined and pay costs if you do not follow the rules or you cause fire damage to other things.



If you need to have a larger fire than the above rules allow then you will have to apply to the Fire Department for a Burning Permit.

**The above description of the rules surrounding the setting of open-air fires in Welland is not a complete description of the rules. For a full description and understanding of the conditions and restrictions on Exempt fires you must consult an official copy of the *Open-Air Fire By-law* which is available on the City web-site or from City Hall.**



## USE OF BARBECUES AND GRILLS AND OTHER DEVICES

### Cooking Fires

- You must use a commercially made barbecue that burns propane, natural gas, charcoal, or dry wood only.
- You might be able to use your custom made Grill but it must be inspected and approved by the Fire Department first.
- You can use your barbecue or approved Grill to cook food at any time.
- The fire can only be large enough for the purpose of cooking.
- The fire must be lit and extinguished only long enough before and after cooking as is necessary.
- A Responsible adult must supervise it at all times.
- The fire must be completely within the barbecue or grill, and if using wood the flames must be below the grill height or a spark screen must be used (especially on start-up).
- The barbecue must be 1 meter or more away from and 3 meters or more below anything that could burn. Take all necessary care to prevent fire spread.
- In addition, if you live in a building with 3 or more apartment units you can only have a barbecue if the barbecue is on a concrete or masonry balcony, roof, or verandah.
  - Clearances for custom Grills will be further than those listed above.
  - You must have on hand a charged garden hose or extinguisher or 15 liter pail of water.
  - You must have on hand a telephone to call the fire department if needed.
  - You must put the fire out completely before leaving it.
  - YOU are responsible for any negative consequences of having a fire, and can be fined and pay costs if you do not follow the rules or you cause fire damage to other things.



### Patio torches and candles

- Keep away from all things that could catch fire.

### Gas Fired outdoor Fireplaces and Heaters

- Device must have a TSSA certification or similar safety mark (CSA etc)
- Keep away from all things that could catch fire.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.



### Fireworks

- There are restrictions on the days of the year fireworks can be set off or purchased in Welland.
- Family fireworks and licensed fireworks displays are regulated by "The Fireworks By-law" of the City of Welland.

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