

Portable Fire Pits and Chimneas

- Keep the fire pit/chimnea at least 15 feet away from a building or any flammable materials. This includes newspaper, gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, and lighter fluid or vehicles while in use.
- Clear all flammable materials away from your fire pit before using it. Five feet is a good distance. This “break” in vegetation will help prevent an escaped fire from spreading.
- Place the pit on a non-flammable surface such as stone, brick, or concrete. Do not position a fire pit/chimnea under a covered porch or low hanging tree branches. Do not put a fire pit/chimnea on a wooden deck or directly on grass.



- Use a screen or wire mesh cover to eliminate sparks from catching other objects on fire.



- Do not overload fire pit as there is a risk of the wood falling out and potentially spreading the fire.
- Do not burn trash, leaves, paper, cardboard, or plywood. Avoid using soft wood such as pine or cedar that likely pop and throw sparks. Use of seasoned hardwood is suggested.
- Soak ashes or wait until they are completely cooled before disposing of them in the proper receptacles. Hot embers should be place in a metal container away from any structure.
- Teach kids how to be responsible when around fires, but do not allow them to use it when alone.
- Keep a fire extinguisher readily available.

- Never leave the fire unattended.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing when operating the fire pit.
- Use gloves when handling hot objects.
- Before you light the fire, evaluate how windy it is (is it safe) and the wind direction (e.g. where your smoke will be blowing).
- Exercise the same precautions you would with an open fire.



For more information or questions please call:

Frederick County Fire & Rescue
Office of the Fire Marshal
(540) 665-6350