

Having a backyard fire this fall? Follow the law and be considerate of your neighbors

Written by

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For some, colder fall temperatures are a reason to have a small backyard fire. Following these Minneapolis ordinances will help keep Minneapolis safe and livable:

- Outdoor fires are permitted between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- Keep fire small, less than three feet in diameter and two feet high.
- Postpone a fire when Minneapolis is under an air pollution advisory. Fires release fine particles that contribute to air pollution and can be implicated in a number of health problems, including strokes, heart attacks and asthma. Sign up for air quality alerts at <http://mn.enviroflas.h.info>
- Burn only untreated, unpainted, dry wood. Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris, because the smoke can be toxic. www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/air/airquality
- Fire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible material and in a fire ring or pit with edges more than six inches high.
- Have a hose or fire extinguisher present.
- Postpone the fire when the wind exceeds 10 mph.
- Fire must be constantly attended by someone 18 years or older and completely out before being abandoned.

Illegal burning can result in a \$200 fine.

Be a good neighbor

When you're planning to have a recreational fire, these simple suggestions could help make sure you're being a considerate neighbor:

- Let neighbors know when planning a fire.
- Postpone a fire when smoke will blow directly at a neighbor's house or when still weather conditions prevent smoke from moving away at all.

For more information on recreational fires or to register a complaint about a recreational fire, call 311 or email Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov, or outside 311 hours to register a complaint about a recreational fire call 911. The Fire and Police departments are authorized to extinguish a fire immediately if it is hazardous.

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For more information about recreational fires from the Minneapolis Fire Department, visit <http://wcms/wwwmpls/fire/WCMS1P-090517>

. For the Minneapolis law on recreational fires, visit the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, Chapter 178 at

www.minneapolismn.gov/government/ord/index.htm

. This ordinance works toward Minneapolis goals about an eco-focus, livable communities and healthy lives.

For more information on Minneapolis air quality, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/indicators/WCMS1P-081037