



## STERLING FIRE DEPARTMENT

5 MAIN STREET – P.O. BOX 21

STERLING, MA 01564

Tel: (978) 422-8107

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### OUTDOOR FIRE REQUIREMENTS

#### OUTDOOR FIRES ARE REGULATED BY M.G.L. Ch. 48 sec. 13

- ☐ Homeowners can burn specific types of brush and other forestry debris between the January 15 and May 1 of each year provided they have a valid Residential Burn Permit in good standing with the fire department.
- ☐ Farms can burn specific types of brush and other forestry debris year-round provided they have a valid Agricultural Burning Permit in good standing with the fire department. To qualify for an Agricultural Burning Permit the fire must be performed on property used for agricultural purposes commercially.
- ☐ Recreational fires are allowed provided they are compliant with the requirements below.

### RECREATIONAL FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Outdoor fireplaces, chimineas, and other recreational fire appliances have become popular ways to enjoy the outdoors, but there are rules that must be followed to ensure they are used safely.

- ☐ ANY outdoor fire that is deemed either to be unsafe or to be a nuisance by the fire department must be extinguished immediately. Failure to do so could result in fines and the person responsible for the fire will also be held responsible for any costs incurred by the need for the department to extinguish the fire.
- ☐ Any commercially produced appliance must be used within all limitations and instructions set by the manufacturer and must be located on a stable, non-combustible surface (other than the ground) at grade level. These devices shall be a minimum of 10 feet away from any combustibles or structures and shall not be used under any overhead obstructions (roofs, ceilings, decks, porches, canopies, tents, trees etc.)
- ☐ Man-made fire pits must not exceed 3 sq./ft in size and must be made from non-combustible material such as brick or stone. The fire pit must be a minimum of 10 feet from any combustibles or structures.
- ☐ There must be a competent person in charge of the fire at all times and there must also be a means of extinguishment (garden hose, fire extinguisher etc.) located within proximity of the recreational fire while it is in operation. Any fire must be immediately extinguished before it is left unattended for any period of time at all and must be 100% extinguished at its completion.
- ☐ Recreational fires shall be fueled by nothing other than clean, dry, seasoned firewood. The burning of yard waste, leaves, brush, trash, paper products, building materials or anything other than firewood is prohibited.
- ☐ A courtesy notification shall be made to the Fire Department by calling **978-422-8107** before any outdoor cooking or recreational fire. The Fire Department has the authority to deny permission to any type of outdoor fires due to weather conditions or other circumstances that could potentially affect the hazards associated with such activity.