



CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Serving the Town of Hillsborough and Cities of Burlingame and Millbrae

John Kammeyer

Fire Chief

Fire pits and outdoor fireplaces have gained popularity as people are choosing to expand their living space into the outdoors with these appliances as a wonderful design feature. Residents should consider the effects of soot, smoke, and smells that may possibly affect your neighbors. Consideration should be made so they are utilized in a manner that ensures everyone's safety.

While fire pits and outdoor fireplaces are permitted by code, there are several requirements and recommendations Central County Fire Department would like all residents to keep in mind:

- Wood burning fire pits should contain a spark arrestor screen to contain sparks and embers. Use seasoned firewood logs in these appliances.
- Provide at least 10 feet of clearance from your fire pit and outdoor fireplace; keep tree branches and vegetation at a safe distance from open flame.
- During use, keep a supply of water nearby in case of accidental flare up.
- Keep small children at a safe distance from open flames. Do not allow children to operate the appliances.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for any fire pit or outdoor fireplace appliance.
- Check the weather forecast prior to use. Avoid lighting your appliance during high winds and be mindful of "Spare the Air" or burn ban dates. Please contact Bay Area Air Quality Management District for specific information and dates.
- Fire pits and outdoor fireplaces equipped with a natural gas supply are permitted and shall be approved by the Town of Hillsborough prior to pipe installation.

In any case, always use common sense in your design and develop a strict vegetation management plan for your property.

For additional information or questions, please contact Central County Fire Department at (650) 558-7600.