

OUTDOOR OPEN FIRE PIT SAFETY



The Methuen Fire Department would like to share some Outdoor Fire Pit Safety Tips:

- Keep the fire small and manageable (less than 3' in diameter). Never use wet, damp, or "new" wood. This creates needless, irritating smoke. Always use dry, seasoned wood, charcoal, or specialist fuel (e.g. wood burning briquettes).
- The fire pit should be sited on a flat surface that is non-combustible. An area should be cleared around it 15' in all directions of all vegetation and combustibles.
- If Methuen Fire Department receives complaints from neighbors that the smoke or smell is bothersome to them, we will investigate, and if deemed necessary, you may be instructed to extinguish, or allow it to burn out.
- If using a manufactured fire pit, follow manufacturer's specifications clearly. If assembly is required, read the assembly instructions carefully and attach any fastenings securely.
- Do not leave the fire unattended. It could pose a hazard to both children and pets.
- Make sure that the fire pit is placed away from other materials that could burn or catch fire, both overhead and to the side, such as tree branches, sheds, awnings, clothes lines, fences and plants.
- Use long barbecue tongs to handle wood or food to lessen the risk of burning yourself. A pair of fire gloves would also be useful - the sides of cast iron fire pits in particular get very hot.
- Never use a manufactured fire pit indoors.
- It is advisable to keep a fire extinguisher or garden hose handy, for quick extinguishment if necessary.

Please call the Methuen Fire Department for all questions/concerns regarding Outdoor Fire Pits. Please do not use a "small amount" of gasoline. The fire will "flash back" on the person, and can cause severe burns, and possibly death.