

Do I need a Permit for a Backyard Fire Pit?

Fire permits are not required for fire pits, outdoor fireplaces or stationary barbeques that burn combustible materials, however, they must meet the following standards:

- a minimum of 3.0 meters (10 feet) clearance shall be maintained from buildings, property lines and combustible materials, or as approved by the fire authority (Olds Fire Department)
- fire pit and outdoor fireplace installations shall have a surface or cooking area not exceeding 3800 square centimetres (4.4 sq. ft), enclosed sides not exceeding 46 centimetres (18 inches) above ground level and shall be constructed of bricks, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal or other suitable non-combustible components as approved by the fire authority (Olds Fire Department)
- a spark arrester mesh screen of 1.3 centimetres (0.5 inches) expanding metal (or equivalent) to contain sparks shall be provided over the fire at all times
- only clean fuel shall be used (clean dry wood or charcoal).
- refuse or waste materials shall not be burned
- the users of such installations shall ensure that smoke or sparks do not create a nuisance or hazard to neighbours or to other properties

Fire permits are not required for portable barbeques which are fueled by liquified propane gas, natural gas, compressed briquettes or charcoal when used for the purpose of cooking, provided the appliances for cooking are used on the property of the resident or in a public area at a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction (Olds Fire Department).

If you have any questions or concerns about fire pits, please contact the Olds Fire Department at 403-507-4850 or email firedept@olds.ca.