

Ames Fire Department
CHECK SHEET FOR RECREATIONAL FIRE CODE COMPLIANCE FORM

The Ames Fire Department desires that all citizens not be denied the enjoyment of recreational fires. A recreational fire is **defined** as an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes (2012 IFC, 302.1 Definitions). Though these fires are typically fairly small in size, they can still represent a significant fire hazard.

In an effort to minimize damage and/or injury from fires, the Ames Fire Department requires all recreational fires to meet Ames municipal code requirements. **Violations** of any provision of Chapter 8, Fire Code, shall be a municipal infraction punishable by a penalty of **\$500** for a person's first violation thereof, and a penalty of **\$750** for each repeat violation (City of Ames Municipal Code, Sec. 8.601, Penalties for Offenses Pertaining to the Fire Code).

- Fire falls within the guidelines of the municipal code and Fire department personnel request no further action.**
- Fire is NOT in an approved container (i.e.; chimineas, contained fire pit/ring, screened device).**
- Fire is LESS THAN 15 feet from any combustibles (including decks, porches, buildings etc).** Recreational fires are permitted in approved containers, such as chimineas. Such fires shall be located more than 15 feet from any structure, including decks, porches, roofs, garages, sheds, and fences. The immediate area within 15 feet of the fire shall be clear of combustible materials, such as weeds, shrubs, and (combustible) furniture (City of Ames Municipal Code, Sec. 8.202, Amendments).
- Fire is NOT in an approved container, AND located at a distance of less than 25 feet from a structure or combustible materials.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition (2012 IFC, 307.4.2, Recreational Fires).
- Fire fuel is inappropriate (items other than dry wood, kindling, sticks, small logs, etc.).** The burning of garbage, refuse, leaves, landscape waste and all other combustible materials is prohibited except as specifically permitted by the fire chief (City of Ames Municipal Code, Sec. 8.401, (1) Prohibition).
- Flammable liquids were used to ignite the fire (i.e., gas, diesel, etc).**
- Fire size is NOT within the guidelines.** An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes (2012 IFC, 302.1 Definitions).
- Smoke produced is offensive (i.e., green or wet wood smoldering fire).** Recreational fires shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited (2012 IFC, 307.1.1, Prohibited open burning). Upon receipt of a complaint regarding the smoke or odors from open fires, the fire chief's designee shall investigate and have the discretion to have the fire extinguished (City of Ames Municipal Code, Sec. 8.401, (2) General Conditions for Open Burning).
- Atmospheric conditions are inappropriate for burning (i.e., strong winds, overly dry, etc).** The Fire Chief may prohibit any or all recreational fires when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous or a nuisance (City of Ames Municipal Code, Sec. 8.401, (2) General Conditions for Open Burning).
- No accessible/appropriate method available for fire extinguishment (i.e., minimum 4-A rated portable fire extinguisher, garden hose connected to water, shovel with sand or dirt nearby).** A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire- extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization (2012 IFC, 307.5, Attendance).
- Fire is unattended.** Recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished (2012 IFC, 307.5, Attendance).
- Fire is attended, but NOT by an adult.** Recreational fires shall be constantly attended by an adult person until such fire is extinguished (City of Ames Municipal Code, Sec. 8.401, (2) General Conditions for Open Burning).

Address _____ Date _____ Time _____

Property Owner/Occupant Name _____ Signature _____