INFORMATION BULLETIN

OPEN BURNING AND RECREATIONAL FIRES

Code Reference:
2007 California Fire Code (CFC) § 302 and 307
Redding Municipal Code (RMC) § 9.20.100

DEFINITIONS:

1. **BONFIRE**- An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

2. **OPEN BURNING**- The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Only dry vegetation is allowed to be burned. You may **NOT** burn paper, cardboard, stumps, asphalt and tar materials, construction debris, petroleum products, rubber products, plastics, garbage (including food), clothing and fabric, demolition debris, animal waste or manure.

3. **RECREATIONAL FIRE**- 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** or less in diameter and **2 feet** or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purpose.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Open Burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. CFC 307.1.1; RMC 9.20.100

2. A permit shall be obtained from the Fire Prevention Bureau prior to kindling a fire for recognized silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention

or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. In this connection, the Fire Prevention Bureau or Air Quality control may prohibit all open burning or revoke the permit when conditions are so hazardous as to justify such prohibition in the judgement of the Fire Marshal or his designee, or Air Quality designee or may impose any and all reasonable regulations as to the conditions under which and the times at which open burning shall be permitted. Such conditions and the times thereof shall be placed on the special permit before the issuance thereof. Open burning shall be allowed for the months of November and April, or as otherwise specified by the Fire Department. CFC 307.2; RMC 9.20.100

Exception: Fire hazard mitigation work or land clearing may be allowed through a special permit issued by the Fire Department.

3. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation. CFC 307.3

4. The location of open burning shall not be less than **50 feet** from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure. CFC 307.4

   Exceptions:

   1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than **15 feet** from a structure. Burn barrels are prohibited. See diagram.

   2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be **25 feet** where the pile size is **3 feet** or less in diameter and **2 feet** or less in height.

5. A bonfire shall be not be conducted within **50 feet** of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. CFC 307.4.1

6. Recreational fires shall be not be conducted within **25 feet** of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. The property owner's permission is required for recreational fires. CFC 307.4.2

7. Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher 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. CFC 307.5

<u>OPEN BURNING WITH NO COVER / RECREATIONAL FIRE</u>
MINIMUM 25 FEET OF CLEARANCE REQUIRED WHERE THE PILE SIZE IS 3 FEET OR LESS IN DIAMETER AND TWO FEET OR LESS IN HEIGHT

OPEN BURNING / BONFIRE

MINIMUM 50 FEET OF CLEARANCE REQUIRED

SPARK ARRESTER REQUIRED

RECREATIONAL FIRE WITH SCREEN

MINIMUM 15 FEET OF CLEARANCE REQUIRED