

Having a fire in your backyard can be a fun summer activity and lends itself well to social distancing. While using your fire pit is a great idea, homeowners need to be mindful of their safety and of their neighbors. By following the recommended guidelines and safety tips, you can enjoy your fire pit and keep your neighbors happy.

- 1) First and foremost, be respectful of your neighbors. If possible, let them know that you plan to have a fire and if they complain that smoke from the fire is irritating their lungs, put it out. If smoke from fire pits becomes an irritant to area residents, the Trumbull Fire Marshal's Office - in conjunction with the Trumbull Health Department - will have to enforce that the fire pits be extinguished.
- 2) Check wind direction before lighting a fire.
- 3) Never burn when there are moderate wind conditions.
- 4) When using your fire pit, make sure it is on a non-flammable surface such as a patio, concrete blocks, gravel, or sand. Don't use your fire pit directly on top of grass.
- 5) Only use your fire pit outdoors.
- 6) Do not burn leaves, garbage, pallets, or any type of construction materials.
- 7) Keep children and pets at least 3 feet from the fire.
- 8) Use a mesh cover / lid on your fire pit when possible. This prevents embers from flying out of the fire.
- 9) Keep a fire extinguisher, garden hose, or bucket of water nearby to help extinguish the fire in case it gets out of hand or disturbs a neighbor.
- 10) Never leave your fire pit unattended and ALWAYS make sure that the fire is fully extinguished before you go to bed.
- 11) Do not use flammable fluids such as gasoline or lighter fluid to light or relight fires.
- 12) Use seasoned firewood. Avoid using soft woods like pine or cedar because they can "pop" and throw sparks.

\*Note: For regular fire pit use, a permit is not required. However, for open burning, such as a pile of brush, a permit must be obtained from the Fire Marshal's Office. More information on burn permits and open burning can be found on the town's website. Permanent burn bans can be issued at the discretion of the fire marshal. This ban includes both fire pits and open burning.

## Do



**Do:** use your fire pit on a non-flammable surface and keep a covering on it to prevent embers from flying.



**Do:** keep chairs at least a couple feet from the fire.

## Don't



**Don't:** use pallets to build a bonfire. This is unsafe and can turn dangerous quickly.



**Don't:** burn brush and leaves - it creates a lot of smoke which can be irritating to your neighbors' lungs. It's also bad for the environment.