



# Bexar-Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department Tip Sheet: Guidelines To Safe Burning in Residential Fire Pits



Small fires are allowed in residential fire pits during a burn ban as long as:

- The fire pit has large metal sides, built up concrete blocks, or constructed of cement and rock
- The fire pit should be a minimum of 2 ft high and 3 ft wide
- The fire pit must be completely covered by a fine metal grate to prevent flying brands and embers
- The size of the fire must be appropriate for the size of the pit

During a burn ban, other than the above mentioned exception, the only thing that can be burned is household waste (no construction material), and that can only be burned if solid waste collection is not available. Before you burn during a burn ban, you must call the fire marshals office to receive a burn permit. Without one, you can receive a citation for illegal burning if a complaint is received.

## Safety Tips for Fire Pits:

- **Man the Flame.** Never leave any fire unattended, especially if there are children nearby.
- **Keep an Extinguisher Handy.** Always have a means to extinguish the fire if necessary (Ex. garden hose).
- **Position is Safely.** Place or build your fire pit at least 25 feet away from any homes, buildings, or any type of combustibles. The fire pit needs to be on a solid surface and in an open area, avoiding overhead trees or rooflines.
- **Stay Three Feet From the Head.** Establish a three-foot “kid-free zone” around your fire pit. Teach your children and their friends the rule, and always watch children who are near a fire.



**For more information on residential fire pits, please call the Bexar County Fire Marshal at (210) 335-0300**