

Outdoor Recreational Fires Frequently Asked Questions

1) Where do I get my permit?

Applications for permits are available on the City of Saginaw website (saginaw-mi.com), at City Hall (1315 S. Washington) and at all four Saginaw fire stations (801 Federal Street, 1305 Gratiot, 1602 Hess, and 2208 State). The citizen then needs to complete the application and schedule an inspection with the Fire Department. Once approved by the Fire Department, the citizen can obtain a permit from the Inspections Division at City Hall.

2) Why does the Fire Department have to come to my house for the inspection?

The Fire Department will be completing an inspection to ensure fire safety for the permit holders. Fire fighters will verify that fire pits or wood burning units are at least 25 feet from any structure on the property and that fire-extinguishing equipment is readily available for use.

3) How much does the permit cost?

The permit costs \$50.00.

4) Do I need to get a new permit each year?

No, the permit is good for the life of the property for which it was purchased.

5) What type of container can I use for my outdoor recreational fire?

- a. Fire pits are permitted but must be of brick, masonry, cement, or stone construction. A metal fire ring for open burning is also allowed. The upper surface of the fire pit or fire ring shall not be more than 18 inches above the surrounding grade, with the inside surface not more than 6 inches below the surrounding grade. The inside dimension (where combustion can take place) shall not be more than 9 square feet in area at either the top or bottom.
- b. Portable patio wood burning units and chimneas may also be used. These units are available for purchase at many retail outlets.

6) How far from my house does the pit or patio wood burning unit have to be?

During the fire safety inspection, the permit holder will be advised of the proper distance that the fire pit or patio wood burning unit must be from the permit holder's home.

7) What can I burn?

Only clean wood is permitted. Burning leaves, grass clippings, construction and demolition waste, and refuse is prohibited.