RECREATIONAL AND COOKING FIRES

Grand Chute Fire Department
2250 W Grand Chute Blvd
Grand Chute, WI 54913-7700
www.grandchutewi.gov
Phone (920) 832-6050
Fax (920) 832-1606

RECREATIONAL FIRES

No Fee, But Permit Required

Valid January 1st through December 31st

Recreational fires, barbecue pits, portable/stationary fire pits, and outdoor fireplaces are allowed under the following conditions:

- Must be at least 15 feet from any type of a building or structure, combustible material of any form, or property line.
- Not allowed between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6 a.m.
- Only clean dry wood can be burned. The burning of garbage, trash, refuse, flammable liquids, and/or combustible liquids in any form is not allowed. NO BURNING OF LEAVES, YARD WASTE OR BRUSH.
- Not allowed when the wind exceeds 10 miles per hour.
- Cannot create smoke that causes a public nuisance, complaints from neighbors, or a visibility hazard on any form of transportation route.
- Must be constantly supervised by a competent person of at least 18 years old until the fire is out.
- Must have fire extinguishing equipment readily available.
- Must be contained in an area no larger than 3 feet wide by 3 feet long, or a circle larger than 3 feet in diameter. The flames may be no higher than 2 feet.
- Fire pits (excluding portable fire pits and outdoor fireplaces) must be dug into the ground between 6 and 12 inches and surrounded at ground level by a non-combustible material at least 6 inches high.
- Portable fire pits and outdoor fireplaces must be placed on a non-combustible surface that is at least 1½ times larger than the fire pit or fireplace.

Multi-family Dwellings (anything with 3+ homes that are part of the same building):

- May NOT have a Recreational Burn Permit.
- Barbecue grills, smokers, and other appliances fueled by natural gas, propane, or charcoal may NOT be used or stored above the first floor.
- Barbecue grills, smokers, and other appliances fueled by natural gas, propane, or charcoal may NOT be used within 15 feet of the dwelling.
- Exception: Electric barbecue grills may be used and stored above the first floor.

CLEARANCES NEEDED

15 Feet

15 Feet

BONFIRES

Fee and Permit Required

Valid One Day Only

- Bonfires require an inspection of the site prior to issuance of a permit.
- Must be at least 50 feet from any building or structure, combustible material of any form, or property line.
- Before lighting bonfire, pay attention to wind direction. Make sure ignited materials will not be carried by the wind to other structures or combustible materials.
- Not allowed when the wind exceeds 10 miles per hour.
- Cannot create smoke that causes a public nuisance, complaints from neighbors, or a visibility hazard on any form of transportation route.
- Must be constantly supervised by a competent person of at least 18 years old until the fire is out.
- Must have fire extinguishing equipment readily available.
- If the bonfire is cancelled due to inclement weather the permit may be re-issued at no cost at the discretion of the code official.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I get my permit?

You can complete a permit application on our website or use the QR code here. Applications can also be completed at either fire station (Station #1 2250 Grand Chute Blvd. or Station #2 3900 W. Spencer St.).

Why do I have to renew my permit every year?

By renewing the permit every year we are able to inform the permit holder of any changes to the municipal burning code. We also use this time to review safety precautions as well as answer any questions or concerns.

What if I am cleaning in the fall and have a pile of leaves to burn – Can I burn them?

No – Only clean dry wood.

Can I burn twigs?

Yes - if it is free of leaves.

How do I determine how windy it is?

You can check the weather station or use the internet.

What do I do if I know my neighbor is burning illegally?

Contact the fire department at (920) 832-6050 while they are actively burning and we will address the issue with the individual.

Can I use a garden hose to put out the fire if needed or do I have to have an extinguisher?

A garden hose is acceptable.

If I am a renter do I need the property owner's consent to have a recreational / cooking fire?

Yes, the property owner must approve the application for the burning permit.

Can I have a portable fire pit?

Yes, if it is used on a non-combustible surface and has proper clearance.

Do I need a permit for my grill or smoker?

No, grills, smokers and other devices fueled by natural gas, propane or charcoal are exempt from permitting.

Where can I get more information?

The Municipal Code 291-5 can be found using this QR code.