

WOODLEA MANOR CONSERVANCY

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TO: WOODLEA MANOR HOMEOWNERS

FROM: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RE: SAFETY AND PORTABLE FIRE PITS

Especially with the dry conditions we are experiencing, fire safety is critical to all of us. Every 46 seconds an outdoor fire occurs according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Please be sure you follow the fire safety rules published by the Loudoun County Fire Marshal when using a fire pit on your property.

- Portable fire pits and chimneas ARE ALLOWED and are not considered open burning if operated within manufacturer's specifications.
- Keep the fire pit at least 15 feet away from a building or any flammable materials. This includes newspaper, gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene and lighter fluid or vehicles when in use
- Place the pit on a stone, brick or concrete surface or consider a fire resistant pad to place underneath.
- Use a screen to eliminate sparks from catching other objects on fire.
- Do not overload the fire pit to reduce the risk of wood falling out and potentially spreading the fire.
- Do not burn trash, leaves, paper, cardboard or plywood. Avoid using soft wood such as pine or cedar that likely pop and throw sparks.
- Soak ashes or wait until they are completely cooled before disposing of them in the proper receptacles. Hot embers should be placed in a metal container away from any structure.
- Keep a fire extinguisher readily available.
- Never leave the fire unattended.

- Before you decide to light the fire, evaluate how windy it is (is it safe) and the wind direction (e.g. where your smoke will be blowing).
- Exercise the same precautions you would with an open fire.
- For more information, please Contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-737-8093 or lifesaftey@loudoun.gov.

Homeowners interested in a permanent fire pit need to apply for approval with the Homeowners Association before installation. Here are some basic guidelines when applying:

1. Provide a sketch of the proposed fire pit location to include distances, to structures and other combustible materials (fence, shed, etc), and the dimensions and structure/construction of your fire pit. Fire pit is required to be at least 15 feet from any structure or combustible material.
2. Provide your property plat marked with the location of the proposed fire pit.
3. The largest diameter that would be allowed is 36". Please be advised that a fire pit of 42" is large enough that it will be considered open burning and must comply with all the requirements of open burning.
4. All fire pits must continue to have a wire mesh cover to control sparks, mechanism to extinguish the fire, attended at all times, limited to clean seasoned wood, and shall not create a nuisance.