



Mayor Linda Gorton

# LEXINGTON - FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Division of Fire and Emergency Services  
Fire Prevention

Jason Wells, Fire Chief

Jeff Johnson, Fire Marshal

LFUCG Ordinances and life safety codes are in effect for:

## FIRE PITS AND COOKING GRILLS

While the model codes currently do not specifically address fire pits, the LFUCG open burning ordinance (Section 9-20) does provide guidelines on their use. The intent of the ordinance is to allow property owners a means of eliminating tree and brush debris by obtaining a permit that will allow burning of this debris.

Fire pits are placed in the category of recreational fires. Fire pits purchased at retail outlets are small in size and have chimneys or a spark arrester screen to help eliminate burning embers. *Always follow the manufacturer's directions for the placement and use of these purchased appliances.*



When a fire pit is built, as opposed to one manufactured, the size of the pit should be considered. A large fire pit can create a lot of fire and smoke and generate complaints from neighbors. These complaints are handled by fire companies coming to your home and extinguishing the fire.

NFPA 1, the state adopted fire code, does address recreational fires in the form of bon fires and places a limit of these types of fires at three feet in diameter and two feet high. Even at this size a large amount of fire and smoke can be created. *A spark arrester screen on top should be utilized like the fire pits sold at area stores to minimize the release of burning embers.* When building a pit, choose a location that does not have overhead wires, trees, or combustible buildings or structures within 25 feet. Further details on construction can be found through professional landscape designers.

## GRILLS ON MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

NFPA 1 (2012 edition), the state adopted fire code, states:

*"For other than one and two family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 10 ft (3 m) of any structure."* Section 10.11.6.1

NFPA 1 (2012 edition), the state adopted fire code, also states:

*"For other than one and two family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking shall be stored on a balcony."* Section 10.11.6.2

H O R S E   C A P I T A L   O F   T H E   W O R L D