

**STRONGSVILLE FIRE and EMERGENCY
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces



Spring is here and nice weather invites the perfect opportunity to enjoy the company of neighbors, family, friends and a nice cozy camp fire. A lot of residents have a variety of outdoor fire pits, chimineas and fireplaces. However, it is very important that we still abide by some basic safety rules.

On May 2, 2021 Strongsville Fire responded to a residential structure fire. The first responding company found a 2-story home with heavy smoke and fire on the outside of the structure. The fire company aggressively attacked the fire and quickly brought the fire under control. The initial fire investigation suggests that the fire was started from a chiminea style fire pit. The chiminea was located a few feet from a flower bed that contained old mulch. On the evening of the fire, the wind was out of the WSW at 5 mph. Hot embers from the chiminea ignited the mulch which spread to the house, catching the vinyl siding on fire.

The Strongsville Fire Code permits recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces under certain conditions.

1. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.
2. Portable outdoor fireplaces must be used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and not operate within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.
3. All fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of a 4- rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as garden hose, dirt/sand, water barrel shall be available for immediate utilization.
4. **NO OPEN BURNING** permitted in Strongsville. This is defined as fire used for silviculture, range or wild life management, control or disease or pests or burning of construction debris or other waste.

Below is a quick firepit safety checklist:

1. Build the fire at a safe distance in the open – This will prevent any embers from starting brush or kindling from catching fire.
2. Never burn construction lumber – materials such as plywood, MDF, pressure-treated boards and posts, or chemically treated wood pallets. Construction lumber is treated with chemical resins, adhesives and other substances that emit toxic fumes when burned.
3. Be prepared to put the fire out – Keep a shovel and water on hand, just in case. In an emergency, you can use the water to quench the fire and the shovel to smother the flames by throwing dirt on them if the fire gets too large. At the end of the night, make sure the fire is completely extinguished.
4. Never leave the fire unattended – People may run to get fixings for s'mores or be away from the fire to play cornhole or bocce. Make sure somebody is monitoring the fire, so disaster doesn't strike.
5. While the fire's embers can be mesmerizing, don't let alcohol or drugs cloud your judgement around the fire! Everybody must be cautious to ensure nobody is burned.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services Department, Office of Fire Prevention at 440-580-3225 or visit us at [Strongsville Fire Prevention](#)