



City of El Cajon
Building and Fire Safety Division
200 E. Main St.
El Cajon, CA 92020
Phone: (619) 441-1726, 1727
Inspection Request Line (619) 440-0481

Outdoor BBQ Pits/Open Burning

Please read and be aware of the following information!

Open burning is generally prohibited. Open burning is allowed for cooking or entertainment purposes in an exterior fireplace, barbecue device, or other device as approved for such use. No burning of waste material, trash, rubbish, brush, or other material which causes offensive smoke or odors is allowed. In order to permit a barbecue pit or other approved device for burning, two copies of a site plan showing the location of the pit/device must be submitted along with a permit application.

Note - Call for an inspection a minimum of one working day before the requested date of inspection (**Inspection request line – (619) 440-0481**).

The following are requirements for outdoor BBQ pits within the City of El Cajon.

- Outdoor commercial barbecues shall be constructed of concrete or approved noncombustible materials. Weeds, brush, vegetative matter, and combustible materials shall be cleared for a distance of 10 feet. Barbecues shall be a minimum of 10 feet from buildings or roof overhangs (CFC 1102.5.2.1).
- Pit barbecues shall be excavated in earth free of trash, debris, deleterious materials, contaminated soils, vegetative materials, etc. Weeds, brush, vegetative matter, and combustible materials shall be cleared for a distance of 10 feet. Pit barbecues shall be a minimum of 10 feet from buildings or roof overhangs (CFC 2505.2.2).
- The pit barbecue must be attended at all times while the fire is burning (CFC 1102.3.7).
- The fire must be extinguished at the end of the event or while not attended (CFC 1102.4.4).
- A portable fire extinguisher (minimum 2A10BC) shall be provided at all times during the event (CFC 1102.5.2.3).
- Call Heartland Dispatch prior to starting the barbecue and call again when finished (Heartland Dispatch (619) 441-1621).

If you have any questions concerning the requirements for outdoor barbecue pits please call the Building and Fire Safety Division.