

Creighton University Open Flame Regulations

This document provides mandatory procedures for those who plan to burn an open flame and/or recreational fire pit on campus grounds. Fire is defined as combustion or burning, in which substances combine chemically with oxygen from the air and typically give out bright light, heat, and smoke. **Failure to follow these fire safety practices can lead to serious injuries and property damage! Misuse or tampering with a fire detection or suppression device is in violation of residence hall and university policies. All incidents must be reported immediately to Public Safety at 402-280-2911.**

REQUIRED: The designated on-site client must attend in-person or online fire safety [Training](#) annually prior to their event. This person must remain on site for the duration of the event. To schedule training, contact Environmental Health and Safety at johnbaxter@creighton.edu at least 5 business days prior to the event date.

All fires must follow the City of Omaha Fire Department regulations: [Omaha Fire Safety information](#).

Students should refer to the [Student Handbook](#) for additional regulations regarding fire use in residence halls.

Any violations of these regulations can result in immediate termination of the event by University officials.

*Fire pits will not be approved from December 1st to March 31st. All other dates are subject to weather conditions.

CANCELLATION: University Officials can cancel or move any fire event based on weather conditions or facilities maintenance. The client will be notified in those situations. A Red Flag warning, or other conditions within a 12-hour window of the event, could result in the event being cancelled or re-scheduled. Monitor current conditions on the [National Weather Service](#) website.

FIREPITS:

- Only recreational level fire pits with non-combustible walls of at least 12 inches in height and an inner diameter no greater than 30 inches may be used. No homemade units or bonfires are allowed; fire pits must be purchased from a retail facility (see photo below for example). A containment screen must be used over any lit flame.
- Upon request, Public Safety and Facilities Management michelleferestad@creighton.edu can provide fire extinguishers, concrete board, water source, and metal trash cans. All costs, including costs to repair any damaged property, will be billed to the client following the event. Minimum fee of \$100.
- Portable fire pits must be placed on concrete, or on concrete boards when on grass. Fire pits can only be located on level sites within designated areas on the outdoor campus map on the [Centralized Reservations](#) website.
- Portable fire pits must be at least 15 feet from any combustible structure. This includes decks, overhangs, awnings, tents, and any part of a tree, including overhead branches.
- Portable fire pits must be at least 6 feet away from sidewalks or walking paths.
- Fuel for open flame outdoor fire is limited clean dry firewood, commercial fire logs or clean untreated lumber.
- Only a commercial fire starter product may be used (see photos below for examples). Do not use lighter fluid to start a fire. Never spray an active fire with flammable liquid or any other accelerant.
- The fire must remain contained within the fire unit and cannot be so large or high that the flames regularly come out of the containment screen or extend more than 2 feet above the fire unit.
- A portable fire pit must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. The designated on-site person must ensure the fire is completely saturated and materials inside the firepit are cool to the touch. This may take several smaller applications of water. After cooling, all ashes and partially burned wood must be placed in the metal trash can supplied. The trash cans must be placed in the designated area on concrete.
- Once cooled, concrete boards must be removed from the grass surface and placed on their sides in a designated area. Public Safety will retrieve the extinguishers and confirm that the fire is extinguished, and the metal trash cans are cool to the touch. If there is heat coming from the metal can, they will douse the ashes again with water. Facilities Management will pick up the remaining materials for proper disposal.



COOKING GRILLS:

- Charcoal and other open flame cooking devices may not be operated on balconies or within 10 feet of any structures, combustible materials, or air intakes. Consult Public Safety for further directions.
- The University offers fixed charcoal grills in the Opus and Davis courtyards, which are available for use through the Department of Residence Life. Grills may not be used off the concrete pads of the grill areas.
- All combustible liquids, matches, and lights must remain clear of the grill.
- **Fire extinguishers are located within the exterior vicinity of the Opus and Davis courtyards.**
- Only charcoal or briquets can be used with starter sticks/cubes/chimneys intended for food-grade burning and purchased from a store. Homemade fire starters and lighter fluid are prohibited on campus.
- Never apply a starter product directly to an active flame.
- Review wind speed and direction prior to using the grills.
- Grills must be constantly attended.
- Product left behind must be doused with water until all embers are cool to the touch prior to user leaving the site. Facilities Management will dispose of the cooled ashes during routine grounds cleaning.

CANDLES:

Candles may be lit in designated areas when the following rules are followed. Check with Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) for approved locations. Whenever possible, battery-operated candles should be used in lieu of actual flames to reduce the risk of injury or damage.

- **Never leave a lit candle unattended.**
- Candles must be placed on a solid surface such as a table or counter.
- Candles must be in a fireproof (non-burning) container with a wick that is not taller than the container itself.
- Items that are not fireproof, such as floral arrangements, paper, or other flammable items, must remain well clear of the flame and heat.
- Candles are prohibited in bathrooms.
- Do not use a large number of candles for events such as birthdays because the smoke could set off a fire alarm.
- Candles must be kept in one location until extinguished.
- Always extinguish the candle with limited movement. Wait until the holder is cool to the touch before moving.
- Luminaries, whether inside or outdoors, must only use battery-operated candles. No live flames are allowed inside luminaries.