

Dear Neighbors,

One of the features we appreciate most about living here is the wooded landscape. We treasure our leafy views and preserve our wonderful trees. However, at times our woods can present a danger of fire as we have seen increasingly across the country. Indeed Western North Carolina lost 40,000 acres of forest to a wildfires in 2016 and this can happen again. We have a responsibility to each other, and to the community as a whole, to observe responsible outdoor fire practices. To that end the Board has approved the below guidelines for Outdoor Recreational Fires, & Outdoor Fireplaces/Fire Pits.

The guidelines cover three aspects of outdoor fires:

1. Open Burning (**not allowed – period**)
2. Temporary Outdoor Firepits and Fireplaces
3. Permanent Outdoor fireplaces.

There are specific requirements for each of the last two categories. Please read these guidelines carefully to ensure you understand your responsibilities to your family and your neighbors.

Thank you.

RCHOA Board of Directors – October 2023

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### **Reems Creek Golf Community HOA Guidelines for Outdoor Recreational Fires, & Outdoor Fireplaces/Fire Pits**

***Open Burning (any fire not contained within a burn appliance) is not allowed within the town limits of Weaverville, NC.***

Recreational fires, temporary outdoor fireplaces/fire pits, permanent outdoor fireplaces and permanent outdoor fire pits are regulated by the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code and do not require an open-burning operational permit.

#### **Temporary Outdoor Firepits/Fireplaces:**

- ***Any outdoor fire appliance must have a spark arresting screen mesh that prevents embers escaping the device or fireplace structure***
- Outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.

- Outdoor fireplaces may not be located within 15 feet of a property line
- Outdoor fireplaces shall not be used to burn rubbish or yard waste.
- A means of immediately extinguishing the fire in the device must be immediately available.
- All Outdoor fireplaces must be under the direct supervision of a competent adult at all times while in operation.
- The use of outdoor fireplaces may not create a nuisance smoke condition on any adjacent property.
- Outdoor fireplaces cannot be used during burn bans or red flag wind advisory days.

**Permanent Outdoor Fireplaces:** Permanent outdoor fireplaces must be built to local building code requirements. Any permanently constructed fire pit or fireplace must be reviewed and approved by the Reems Creek Golf Community HOA Board.

- ***Must have a spark arresting screen mesh that prevents embers escaping the device or fireplace structure***
- A means of immediately extinguishing the fire must be available.
- Outdoor fireplaces must be under the direct supervision of a competent adult at all times while in operation.
- Outdoor fireplaces cannot create a nuisance smoke or fire hazard, and, cannot be used during burn bans or red flag wind advisory days.

The Architectural Review Committee and the HOA Board will evaluate individual proposals according to the guidelines and regulations of the Town of Weaverville, but does not guarantee their accuracy now or in the future. **It is the responsibility of individual homeowners to assure that they comply with all legal requirements.** The HOA further retains the rights specified in its Covenants and Restrictions to evaluate any proposed outdoor fire appliance or implementation and approve or reject it for any reason including aesthetics.