



## COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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DEPARTMENT OF  
FIRE & RESCUE

Kevin J McGee  
Chief

### BONFIRES

Bonfires in Prince William County are governed by the regulations set forth by the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, the Code of Prince William County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board. A bonfire is a fire that is used for ceremonial purposes.

Bonfires are prohibited except by permit. Bonfires, permissible by permit, must be inspected by the Fire Marshal's Office prior to burning. **If there is a fee associated with this permit, the fee is non-refundable. Reference the Fire Marshal's Office fee schedule for the applicable permit cost.**

1. Bonfires are permissible during the months of June, July, and August.
2. Applicants must have the completed hazardous use permit application and fee submitted to the Fire Marshal's Office prior to 12:00 noon in order to have the permit delivered the next working day (Monday through Friday).
3. A request for delivery of a bonfire permit must be made to the Fire Marshal's Office within thirty (30) days of the date of permit application. Failure to do so within this time period will result in expiration of the permit. **Bonfire permits are not renewable.**
4. A bonfire must be located a minimum of fifty (50) feet from any structure or combustible material.
5. A bonfire shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment shall be readily available for immediate use (fire extinguishers, etc.).
6. Prior to ignition and upon completion of a bonfire, notification to Prince William County Public Safety Communications, (703) 792-6810, must be made. The location and permit number must be given at that time.
7. The bonfire site should be at the greatest distance practical from any highway.

8. A bonfire can be a maximum of five feet by five feet by five feet and can burn for a maximum duration of three hours.
9. The materials used for a bonfire must be seasoned wood and cannot contain any trash, stumps, rubber tires, brush, or similar materials.
10. During the period beginning February 15 through April 30, the State Forestry Laws are also in effect. Bonfires may not take place except during the hours of 4:00 P.M. to 12:00 midnight.
11. The Fire Marshal's Office can prohibit bonfires, which are offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. The Fire Marshal's Office shall order the extinguishment, by the permit holder or the fire department, of any bonfire that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation. During extreme dry weather, bonfires may also be prohibited.
12. A permit can be cancelled or revoked if any of the above conditions are violated.
13. Any questions concerning bonfires should be directed to the Fire Marshal's Office at (703) 792-6360.

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