

# WASHINGTON DC FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL – GENERAL ORDER



<b>Subject: Bonfire Permits</b>	<b>General Order: 619</b>
<b>Section: Plans and Permits Branch</b>	<b>Date of Issue: October 1, 2009</b>
<b>Authority: DCMR 12, Chapter 12H, Section F-107H Fire Prevention Code Supplement</b>	<b>Date of Expiration: Until Removed</b>

### I. SCOPE

The information contained in this document is intended for all applicants making application to the DC Fire & EMS Department Fire Prevention Division for bonfire permits.

### II. PURPOSE

The intent of this general order is to standardize the process for receiving and processing requests for operational permits for bonfires.

### III. DEFINITIONS

Bonfire- An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

### IV. POLICY

The policy of the Fire Marshal's Office is to handle requests for operational permits for bonfires in the most efficient and courteous manner possible and without delay, while ensuring the safety of the public, organizers, and inspectors and in accordance with all applicable laws, codes and standards.

### V. PROCEDURE

- A. All completed permit applications and a check or money order for the appropriate amount made payable to the DC Treasurer should be submitted in person in the Fire Marshal's Office. (Note: The application is available in the Fire Marshal's Office and online).
- B. A site plan illustrating the actual location on the property where the event will take place.
- C. A written letter stating that the fire extinguishers, water hoses, or some other extinguishing agents will be present during the presence of the open flame.

1. This letter shall also include any other pertinent information deemed necessary to facilitate approval. (Fire watch, etc.)
- D. Applying for bonfire permits must also include the following information in the scope of work:
1. The fact that the fire will be no larger than 5x5x5 feet
  2. The selected area will be 50' from any structure
  3. Only seasoned dried wood will be used for the fire
  4. That someone will be remaining on the site for at least 30 minutes after the event to ensure proper extinguishment.
- E. Notification to DC Department of the Environment (DOE) Air Quality is required prior to event.
- F. Permits will be issued after a satisfactory site inspection, where required.

Note: All questions relating to bonfires shall be forwarded to:

**District of Columbia  
Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW Suite E700  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 727-1600**