

## Open Burning & Burn Ban Citizen Guide

Community Risk Reduction Division • Cheyenne Fire Rescue *Keeping our neighborhoods safe, clean, and compliant with local standards.*

### ● [DYNAMIC STATUS BANNER - GREEN]

**CURRENT STATUS:** NO ACTIVE BURN BAN *Recreational fire pits and chimineas are permitted within city limits provided they adhere to standard safety constraints under City Ordinance 8.12.020.*

*(When conditions shift, toggle this banner to ● **ALERT: BURN BAN IN EFFECT** and display Section 2 rules at the very top of your homepage).*

### 1. Everyday Open Burning Regulations (No Active Ban)

When conditions are normal, citizens do not need a special permit for pleasure, cooking, or warmth. Open burns must follow these guidelines:

- **Approved Containers Only:** Fires must be maintained inside a manufactured, commercial fire pit, chiminea, or a permanently built masonry outdoor fireplace. **Improvised dirt or rock fire rings are strictly prohibited.**
- **The 15-Foot Rule:** All recreational fires must be kept at least **15 feet away** from any structure, wooden deck, property line, fence, or combustible material.
- **Spark Arrestors Required:** Your container must have an approved spark arrestor screen constructed of iron or heavy wire mesh with openings **no larger than 1/2 inch.**
- **Approved Fuel Only:** You may only burn **clean, dry firewood** or charcoal. It is strictly illegal to burn yard waste (leaves, branches, grass clippings), trash, cardboard, construction debris, or plastics.
- **Constant Attendance:** A competent adult must actively monitor the fire from the moment it is lit until it is completely cold and extinguished. Never leave a fire unattended.
- **Extinguishment Source on Available:** You must have a connected garden hose under active water pressure, a full bucket of sand, or a certified fire extinguisher (minimum 4-A rating) immediately accessible right next to the pit.

⚠ **The Nuisance Smoke Clause:** *Even if you follow all structural rules, if the smoke or odor emissions from your fire become offensive, dense, or highly objectionable to your*

neighbors, or create a localized health hazard, Cheyenne Fire Rescue is legally authorized to require you to immediately extinguish the fire.

## 2. What Changes Under an Active Burn Ban?

When extreme wind, low humidity, or prolonged dry spells strike the region, Cheyenne Fire Rescue or the county will issue an official Burn Ban. During a ban, fire restrictions are elevated immediately:

- **✗ Wood-Burning Fire Pits & Chimineas: PROHIBITED.** Traditional open wood fires are entirely frozen and suspended until the ban is officially lifted.
- **✗ Agricultural & Debris Burning: PROHIBITED.** Field clearing, ditch-bank burning, or yard clean-up fires are entirely banned. No open burn permits will be issued or honored.
- **| Propane & Natural Gas Fire Tables: ALLOWED.** Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) or natural gas fire tables are permitted because they do not emit airborne embers or sparks. They must still be kept 15 feet away from combustible structures.
- **| Cooking Grills: ALLOWED.** Charcoal briquette, propane, and natural gas grills used strictly for cooking food are permitted. Please ensure charcoal is completely soaked and cooled before disposal.

## 3. Recommended Web Copy / Accordion Structure

To prevent a "wall of text" on your website and ensure excellent mobile readability, structure the page layout with these features:

1. **"Before You Burn" 4-Step Quick Checklist:** A small, high-visibility callout block highlighting: *Container Type, Fuel Type, 15ft Clearance, Water Source Available.*
2. **Accordion Dropdowns:** Keep details neatly organized into three clickable panels:
  - [+] Fire Pits & Chimineas
  - [+] Charcoal & Gas Grills
  - [+] Reporting a Violation / Nuisance Smoke

## 4. Citizen Contact & Enforcement Information

- **To Report an Unattended Fire or Immediate Emergency:** Dial **911**
- **To Report a Non-Emergency Code Complaint or Dense Nuisance Smoke:** Call the Non-Emergency Dispatch Center at **307-637-6311**.

- **For Fire Safety Questions & CRR Information:** Visit our resource center online at [cheyennefire.org/resources](http://cheyennefire.org/resources).