



DID YOU KNOW?

NOVEMBER 2021

UNAUTHORIZED OUTDOOR FIRES

Unpermitted, outside, open-flame fires used for warming or cooking are **unauthorized** if *any* of the following are true:

- more than 3ft in diameter or more than 2ft in height
- burning refuse (garbage, rubbish, or trade waste)
- burning without the property owner's permission
- within 25ft of a structure or combustible material
- unattended
- without a means of extinguishment

If the fire is **unauthorized** (unpermitted), but **under control**, use 561.

Incident Type:	<div><div>×</div>561-Unauthorized burning</div>	▼
----------------	---	---

Examples:

- Unattended barrel fire at a homeless camp
- Pit or portable fireplace burning 15ft from a structure

If the fire is **unauthorized** (unpermitted) and **unsafe** (endangering life/property), use an **outdoor fire code**:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ◦ 14x natural vegetation (brush, grass, tree limbs) | ◦ 16x special outside (mulch, mailbox, equipment) |
| ◦ 15x outside rubbish (dumpster, construction) | ◦ 17x cultivated vegetation (crops) |

DAD JOKE

Q: The lawn care guy had to give up moving when his mower broke down

A: He just couldn't cut it.

Sources: [Recreational Fires & Open Burning](#)
[Illegal/Unattended Campfire Incident Coding](#)

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
Data Analytics
Strategy Management
Division

