



City of McKinney News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McKinney Fire Department provides fire pit and chiminea safety tips

McKINNEY, Texas (Nov. 22, 2016) – The McKinney Fire Department (MFD) encourages residents to act safely when using outdoor fireplaces as the number of uses has been increasing within the city.

Last year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported 639,500 outdoor fires, causing 95 deaths, 825 injuries and \$252 million in property damage. Of these, 3,700 grass and brush fires are attributed to outdoor fireplaces or fire pits.

“With the colder weather setting in, and fire pits being a source of quality time with friends and family, we encourage residents to be proactive and keep safety in mind. All fire pits and fireplaces should be in an approved container,” said Deputy Fire Marshal Andrew Barr. “We also encourage you to be considerate of your neighbors regarding the amount of smoke that your fire pit generates.”

Here are a few safety tips that should be followed when you are burning in a fire pit or chiminea:

1. Stay current on burn bans or burn ordinances within the city limits.
2. Use natural wood as fuel, not trash, leaves, fence or posts or anything not found in a traditional campfire.
3. Never use flammable or combustible liquids to start the fire like gasoline or kerosene.
4. All fire pits should be 15 feet from a structure, constructed of metal or other noncombustible materials, limited to 3 feet in diameter, and provided with a mesh screening device. Ideally, fire pits should be designed as a masonry construction component.
5. Have a safety zone set up at least 5 feet around the fire pits or chiminea for children, adults and pets.
6. Have a method of extinguishment close by like a fire extinguisher or garden hose.
7. Avoid using fire pits in windy conditions.
8. Always be considerate to your neighbors regarding the smoke generated.

By taking simple steps, chances of enjoying an outdoor fireplaces improves significantly. Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.nfpa.org.

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About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest growing cities in America, McKinney has a current population of more than 162,000. The city was #1 on the list of Best Places to Live in America in 2014, published by *Money Magazine*. Established in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers award-winning schools, a vibrant historic downtown, diverse housing options, a robust economy and a uniquely beautiful natural setting, with rolling hills and lush trees. Visit the city’s website at www.mckinneytexas.org.

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