

Burning at the USC: What You Need to Know



Whether you use wood to heat your home or have some brush you are wanting to burn, safety should be the number one priority when burning. The following information will offer some tips for burning for heat in your homes as well as burning in an outdoor setting within the Community.

Wood Heat for Your Home: Tips and Safety Precautions to Keep in Mind

- Keep your wood covered outside- dry wood provides more heat and creates less smoke.
- Wood should be seasoned for at least six months to ensure safe and efficient burning.
- Keep your fireplace clean of soot and ash.
- Have a fire extinguisher accessible.



USC Burning Basics:

- Burn barrels must be outside, at least 55 gallons, placed on blocks, have air vents on the sides and bottom, and be covered by a screen not to exceed 1/4" mesh.
- Burn barrel must be inspected by the Office of the Environment before you burn.
- You can get your burn barrel permit and an open burn permit from the Office of the Environment, there is no charge. Burn barrel permits to be renewed yearly.
- An open burn permit expires when the burn is completed, but if the planned burn exceeds 3 days a new permit must be issued.
- No burning when the wind is over 10 mph.
- You may open burn for recreational purposes without a permit when the



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ground is covered with snow and the fire is no larger than 3 feet in diameter and three feet tall (clear the ground 5 feet around your fire to ensure it does not spread).

- Do not burn garbage, recyclables, construction materials (including treated wood), hazardous waste, or chemicals.
- All fires must be attended by an individual, 18 years or older, and not left to burn or smolder without consistent monitoring.
- ALWAYS have a way of putting out the fire on hand-garden hose/water, dirt, shovels, etc.
- If you aren't sure- Ask the Office of the Environment, we are happy to answer any questions! Stay safe, burn smart.

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