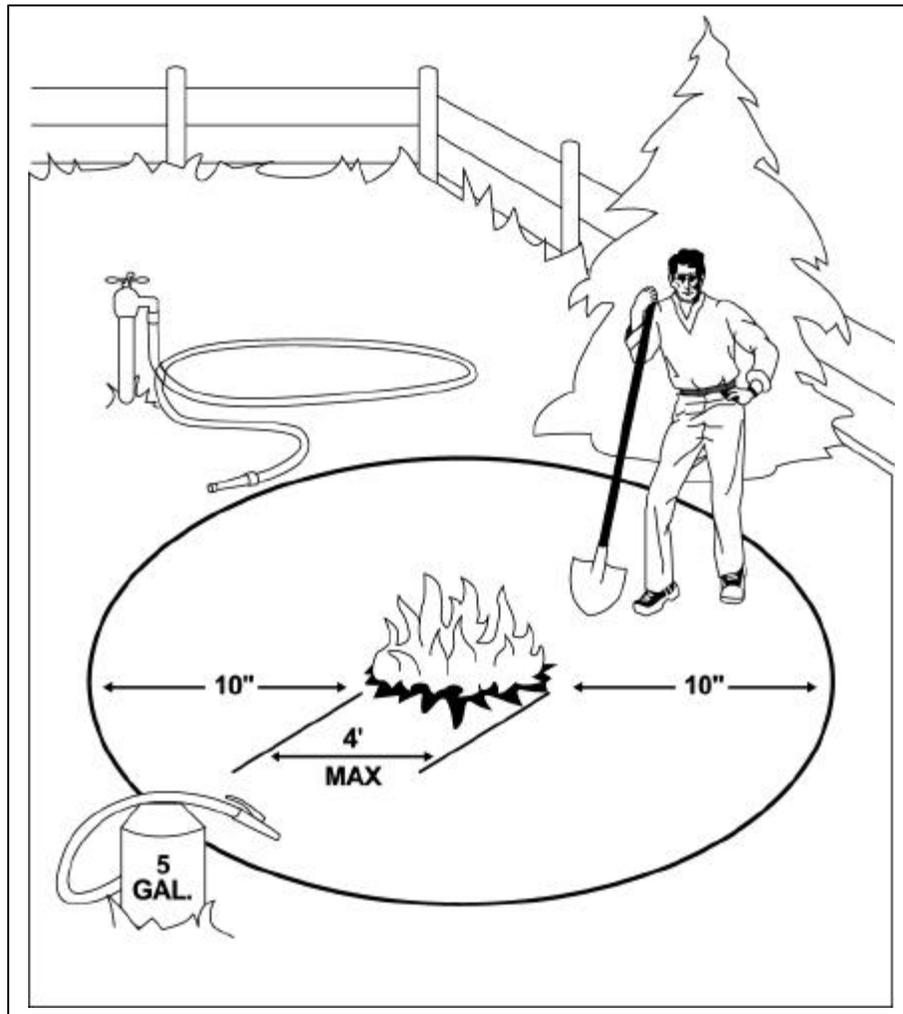


12. FIRE SOURCES

12.1 Debris Burning Regulations

Obtain the required permit prior to any burning on your property and abide by the terms of the burning permit ([PRC 4423](#) and [4433](#)).

Always cut a firebreak between recreational fires on your property and the adjacent dry forest fuels, 10 feet recommended ([PRC 4427a](#)).



Debris Burn Pile
Figure 12.1.

12.1a Permit Required

Make sure the property owner or the person in control of the property has a valid permit prior to any type of burning activity. A permit issued by CDF will not be valid for any day on which burning is prohibited by the local Air Pollution Control Board. Burning permits are required under PRC 4423.

12.1b Local Laws

Check local laws on burning of debris. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours of the day; others forbid it entirely. Check the local laws on specific types of material, which can legally be burned. In many cases, outside burning is limited to natural vegetation or untreated lumber. **DO NOT BURN TIRES, TAR PAPER OR PESTICIDE CONTAINERS.**

12.1c Check the Weather

Do not burn on hot, dry, or windy days. Even though it may be a legal burn day, use common sense.

12.1d Debris Burning

Debris to be burned should be in 4' x 4' piles, in a cleared area, away from overhead branches, with an adult in attendance at all times - consider the alternatives. Sometimes leaves, grass, and stubble may be of more value if they are not burned!

Incinerators should be in a cleared distance. **PRC 4446** states that the following minimum requirements shall apply:

- The area within 10 feet of the exterior of the incinerator is maintained free and clear of all flammable material and vegetation.
- A screen constructed of a nonflammable material, with no greater than ¼ inch mesh, or metal doors, close or cover each opening in the exterior of an incinerator to prevent the escape of flames, sparks, ashes or other burning material which might cause an uncontrolled fire.
- A permit is obtained prior to burning for the use of the incinerator pursuant to PRC 4423 and all other applicable provisions of law.

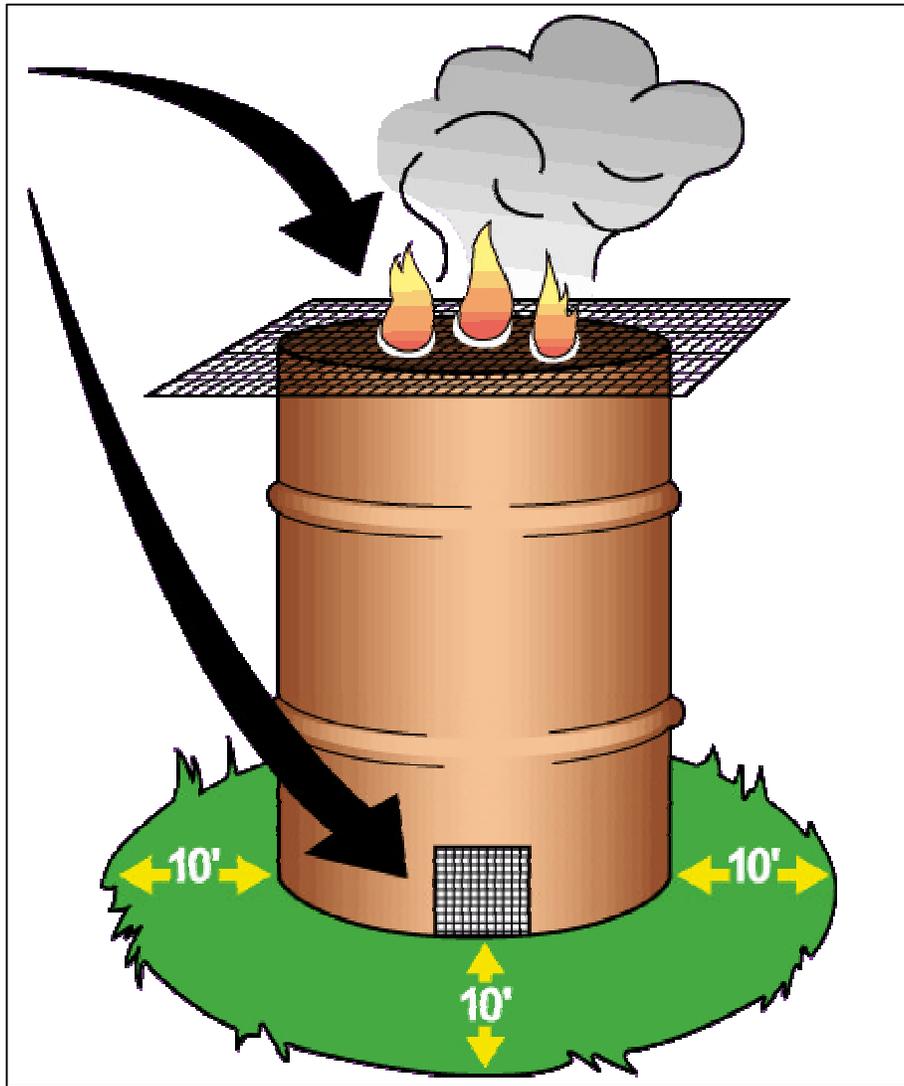


Figure 12.2.
Requirements for Incinerator

12.2 Campfire Safety

Campfire permits are not required for homeowners on their own property. Homeowners should practice fire safety though, as they are liable if a fire escapes.

- ✓ Always clear at least 5 feet in all directions around the fire pit.
- ✓ Always completely extinguish the fire before departing (**PRC 4432**).
 - Drown the fire with water while mixing the ashes and embers with soil.
 - Feel the ashes to make sure they are out.

12.3 Disposal of Ashes

Be especially careful when cooking outdoors. Charcoal briquettes and fireplace ashes should be extinguished by dumping into a metal pail and soaking with water. Charcoal briquettes can hold heat 24 hours if left unextinguished.

12.4 Gasoline Lanterns, Stoves and Heaters

Gasoline lanterns, stoves and heaters should be allowed to cool off prior to filling. Then place them on the ground in a cleared area and fill with the proper fuel.

12.5 Gasoline Storage

Store all flammable liquids in approved safety containers.

12.6 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

LPG tanks (propane and butane) should be located at least 30 feet from any structure and surrounded with 10 feet of clearance.

12.7 Firewood Storage

Do not stack flammable materials, such as firewood, next to or against structures. Stack and cover woodpiles a recommended distance of at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.



Photograph 12.3.
Improper Placement of Firewood

12.8 Exhaust System Requirements

Be sure legal spark arresters are attached permanently to all internal combustion engines which could be operated off the road near flammable dry vegetation. Examples of internal combustion engines requiring spark arresters would be: lawnmowers, chainsaws, generators, motorcycles, off-highway vehicles, agricultural equipment, and many types of construction equipment ([PRC 4442](#)).

Consult the manufacturers guide for proper maintenance procedures and intervals. If it is not known if the spark arrester is the proper type, consult the spark arrester guide at the local fire prevention office.

Advise homeowners on the dangers of metal cutting blades and exhaust systems on their lawnmowers and weed eaters. Metal cutting blades on lawnmowers are a hazard. On hot, low-humidity, summer afternoons, if the metal blades strike rocks while mowing, the sparks will ignite the dry grass. Grass cutting activities utilizing mowers with metal cutting blades should be confined to the morning hours.

12.9 Welding Safety

Welding should be done in an area with ten feet of clearance of all flammable vegetation and the appropriate firefighting tools--round point shovel with an overall length not less than 46" and one backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher ([PRC 4427](#)).