

## Safety Information for Fire Pits and Fire Safety: One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire

Tahoe Donner takes fire safety seriously while at the same time allowing for member enjoyment of appropriately contained warming fires if they comply with Tahoe Donner, Truckee Fire Protection District, and Town of Truckee rules and regulations.

Some basic facts about warming fires in Truckee and Tahoe Donner:

- Warming fires are allowed in Truckee and Tahoe Donner. A warming fire is a small low flame to coal fire contained in an approved fire burning device.
- Consider appropriateness of a warming fire with weather forecast. Check for red flag warnings.
- Any time a warming fire or barbeque is used, best practice is to have at least a 5lb fire extinguisher readily available along with other fire extinguishing tools including shovel and hose.
- Never leave a fire or barbeque unattended.
- Debris pile burning is currently prohibited in Truckee and Tahoe Donner. The Truckee Fire Protection District typically lifts the burn ban in the late fall and permits are issued through early spring if conditions allow. Tahoe Donner Covenants rules allow for debris burning late fall through March 31 so long as there is no burn ban in place and California Air Quality Control allows.

Below you can reference the Tahoe Donner Covenants Rules on fireworks prohibition, fire pits and other fire safety matters.

### **Private Property Fire Safety:**

Owners of lots (both improved and unimproved) are responsible for the maintenance of their lots in a fire-safe condition. Fire-safe condition includes the removal of nuisance firewood including but not limited to old, unused or decomposed wood. No campfires, bonfires, or fireworks of any kind are allowed on private lots, common areas, or other association-owned properties at any time.

What's allowed? Commercially manufactured gas and charcoal barbeques, smokers, and commercially manufactured fire burning devices, such as outdoor fireplaces and chimeneas, equipped with screening and/or spark arrestors, with a maximum screen opening of 1/8th inch, to prevent the escape of sparks and coals, and operated in compliance with the Town of Truckee and the Truckee Fire District's safety and building codes, and per the manufactures instructions, on private property lots only.

Property owners wanting to build their own permanent barbeques or other outdoor fire burning devices equipped with electricity or gas, must obtain the appropriate Town of Truckee building and plumbing permits and build to the Town's building codes. The appearance design and location must be approved by the Tahoe Donner ASC if any part of the permanent structure is over 3 feet high. The burning of yard debris is allowed, only after obtaining a permit from the Truckee Fire District, on permissive burn days as determined by the Fire District, from late fall depending on weather conditions, until no later than March 31. The first violation of these rules will result in a hearing. C&RS Article VIII, Section 1(a)(iv).

**General Common Area and Other TD Owned Property Fire Safety:**

No fires or fireworks of any kind at any time are allowed except for controlled burns under the supervision of the Tahoe Donner Forester, and campfires in existing steel rings at the Tahoe Donner campground and marina when the campground and marina staffs are present. The first violation of these rules will result in a hearing.

Use and bearing of firearms, air guns, archery equipment or fireworks of any kind is prohibited on any Common Area or other Association-owned property, with the exception that archery equipment may be used at the Tahoe Donner Association Archery Range.

**Reporting:**

If someone in your neighborhood is using fireworks or you believe there is a fire in your neighborhood uncontained, immediately call 911 for Truckee Fire Protection District response.

Additionally, report the use to Tahoe Donner Covenants Committee through the Compliance Complaint process available to you through:

1. Online Complaint Submission: <http://onestop.tahoedonner.com/>
2. Email: [Compliance@tahoedonner.com](mailto:Compliance@tahoedonner.com)

Click here for the [Tahoe Donner Covenants Rules](#) if you would like to read more.

For individuals interested in building their own outdoor kitchens, please be aware that permits will be required through the Town of Truckee and Tahoe Donner. The Town of Truckee requirements are specific to building, fire safety codes etc. Tahoe Donner's Architectural Standards reviews and considers approval for any exterior improvements. For more information on Tahoe Donner Architectural Standards permits, rules and procedures please visit <http://www.tahoedonner.com/member-area/hoa/architectural-standards/>.

If you are renting your home, consider prohibiting outdoor warming fires in your rental agreement.

Tahoe Donner has an extensive defensible space and forest health program. If you missed the May 2017 Tahoe Donner News, Tahoe Donner received the Nevada County FireSafe™ Community of the Year award. For more information on how you can be prepared and do your part in reducing fire hazards visit <http://www.tahoedonner.com/member-area/forestry/> and <http://www.areyoufiresafe.com/>.