

Catholic Mutual. . ."CARES"

BONFIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES

Catholic Mutual does not recommend parish-sponsored bonfires; however, if you are determined to go ahead with this type of activity, the following standard guidelines should be followed.

1. Please be aware that each city or county has its own regulations governing bonfires so your local fire authority must be contacted during the planning stages and a permit obtained.
2. Designate an adult supervisor to be in charge of the planning and construction of the bonfire site to ensure consistency in its construction and proper materials are used.
3. The bonfire should be no more than 5' x 5' x 5' in dimension and should not be allowed to burn any longer than three hours.
4. The bonfire should be constructed in daylight hours to ensure proper placement and it is safely constructed. The site should be inspected prior to lighting to ensure no danger to people or property.
5. Only seasoned firewood or similar burning materials should be permitted as fuel for bonfires. No material should be used containing any solvents or flammable materials.
6. The bonfire should be placed at least 50' away from any structure, wooded area, or other areas deemed a hazard as determined by the fire inspector. The bonfire must also not be placed in close proximity to overhead power lines.
7. Flammable liquids may not be used to ignite the bonfire.
8. A minimum 25' should be roped off surrounding the bonfire for crowd control.
9. Adult supervisors should be present on each side of the bonfire. One adult supervisor should always be present until bonfire is fully extinguished.
10. Whenever possible, a garden hose attached to a water supply should be available and the hose capable of extending to all sides of the bonfire. If the fire authority has granted permission for a bonfire larger than the 5' x 5' x 5' noted above, it is important to have a fire truck on standby during the bonfire.
11. Fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 2A-10BC, as well as several buckets of sand should be readily available.
12. Communication devices should be on-site for emergency notification as may be required.
13. The fire inspector is authorized to cause the immediate extinguishment of a bonfire when atmospheric or other hazardous conditions are present. If the weather conditions are unfavorable (i.e. winds in excess of 20 mph or direction of winds endanger property), the bonfire must be cancelled.

These are minimum guidelines to be used in the planning of your bonfire. Your local fire marshal or fire authority may be more restrictive in their requirements.

Please follow whichever guidelines are the most stringent.