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Media Release

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CRITERIA FOR COMMERCIAL FIRE PIT USE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF JOLIET

The Joliet Fire Department would like to remind residents of the criteria for using a commercial fire pit within the city limits.

- Commercially sold steel outdoor fire pits that are on legs attached to a steel bottom, wire mesh sides and a top are approved.
- A fire extinguisher or garden hose must be available to extinguish the fire, if necessary.
- Approved outdoor pits shall be at least 15 feet away from any structure or fence.
- Fuel (wooden logs, or artificial logs) shall fit inside the confines of the wire mesh, and the top shall be in place to be legal. Wooden pallets, treated deck wood, leaves, dimensional lumber, or garbage, shall not be used as fuel in an outdoor fire pit.
- Be aware that although it is legal to burn in an approved outdoor fire pit, *if* it is believed to be offensive or objectionable by the complainant due to smoke, flames, sparks, or odor omissions, then the homeowner shall extinguish the fire immediately. In addition, a police officer on the scene *may* issue a compliance ticket to the homeowner for creating a public nuisance or being in violation of the International Fire Code 2003 Section 307.2.2 "Prohibited Open Burning" which states: "Open burning that will be offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the homeowner or the Fire Department of open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation."
- Residents are also reminded to verify any restrictions or guidelines with their Home Owners Association, if applicable, because the use of fire pits may be forbidden.

Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.
Interim City Manager

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to 149,386 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.cityofjoliet.info or call 815-724-4000.