

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Outdoor Fire Pits**

**Code:** 2012 Residential Code

**Date:** February 17, 2017

**Section:** R101.2.2

**Question:**

Does the Residential Code apply to standalone outdoor fire pits?

**Answer:**

No. The 2014-2016 Approved Cumulative Amendments (Effective 1/1/2016) addresses the definition of Accessory Structures and their Code requirements. Pits are not listed in R101.2.2. Accessory Structures and are not required to meet the provisions of the North Carolina Residential Code.

**Reference:**

**R101.2.2 Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall meet the provisions of this code. Accessory structures not listed below are not required to meet the provisions of this code.

1. Decks, See Appendix M,
2. Gazebos,
3. Retaining wall, See Section R404.4,
4. Detached masonry chimneys located less than 10 feet from other buildings or lot lines,
5. Swimming pools and spas, See Appendix G,
6. Detached carports,
7. *Docks, piers, bulkheads,* and waterways structures, See Section R324.

**Exception:** Portable lightweight aluminum or canvas type carports not exceeding 400 sq ft or 12' mean roof height and tree houses supported solely by a tree are exempt from the provisions of this code.

**Key Words:** BBQ, cooking, fireplace