



TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

ASH CAN PROGRAM

With the increased use of fireplaces and outdoor heating/cooking methods, the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District would like to remind you of proper ways to dispose of leftover ashes. Nationally, improper ash disposal from indoor and outdoor fireplaces and wood burning stoves causes thousands of fires every year.

Many people do not realize the length of time required for ashes to cool enough for disposal. Even after several days, a pile of ashes can hold enough heat to reignite and start a fire. Four days, or 96 hours, is the minimum recommended cooling period for ashes. Extra care should be used in the storage and final disposal.

When disposing of the ashes, you should use the following procedures:

- Make sure there are no hot spots left in the ashes. This is done by soaking them in water or letting them sit for several days and double checking for hot spots. This would apply to charcoal grill ashes as well.
- All ashes should then be stored in the fire-resistant metal container provided. This helps keep air from blowing through and disturbing ashes which can leave hot coals exposed for reigniting. Approved containers are available at local retailers. They should **NEVER** be disposed of in a plastic garbage box or can, a cardboard box, or paper grocery bag. Never use a vacuum cleaner to pick up ashes.
- The metal container should be placed away from anything flammable. It should not be placed next to a firewood pile, up against or in the garage, on or under a wood deck, or under a porch.
- After sitting for a week in the metal container, check them again to be sure that they are cool. If so, the ashes are then safe to dispose of in your trash.

As a safety precaution, keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from a fireplace, wood stove, or any other heating appliance, and create a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires. It is important to make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying, and never leave a fire unattended, particularly when children are present.

Dispose of ash at Fire Station #23, 193 Elks Point Road, Zephyr Cove, in the rear parking lot, in the bright red dumpster.

PROUD PARTNER

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