

BONFIRE GUIDELINES / HOMECOMING / FOUNTAIN MALL

Purpose

This document provides guidelines for building and conducting the Homecoming bonfire at the traditional Fountain Mall location.

Scope

These guidelines shall apply to all persons involved with preparation and building of the Homecoming bonfire on Fountain Mall. The requirements are based on the proximity of trees and buildings, along with the potential number of people in the Fountain Mall area.

Bonfire Guidelines and Requirements**Building of the Bonfire:**

1. Based on the recommendations and calculations of the Waco Fire Marshal and the fire protection/safety experts from Oklahoma State University, the Homecoming bonfire shall not exceed the following dimensions: 30 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 8 feet tall as measured with tape measure, rolling measuring wheel or similar device.
2. There shall be a sand base for the bonfire with a radius of at least sixty feet. The sand base shall be at least six inches deep; a depth suggested by the National Institute for Standards and Technology for a bonfire of this size.
3. Only approved combustible materials shall be used as the bonfire structure e.g. (wooden pallets).
4. A suitable barrier shall be provided to separate the spectators from the bonfire area. Only authorized personnel are allowed to cross into this barrier once the bonfire structure has been built.
5. A minimum of 6 fire extinguishers shall be provided by request from Baylor Facility Services to Bonfire student representatives for putting out small fires.
6. A burn permit must be obtained from the City of Waco Fire Marshal's office granting permission for the fire to be lit.
7. Once the bonfire is completely constructed, a final walk-around shall be conducted by the Baylor Department of Public Safety and Baylor Department of Environmental Health and Safety. The purpose of this audit will be to ensure that the bonfire structure meets all the requirements set forth in this document.

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Lighting the Bonfire

1. Only authorized personnel shall light the fire. That designation will be established by Baylor Chamber in consultation with their sponsor.
2. Diesel fuel is the only approved fire accelerator to be used to assist the lighting the bonfire. Gasoline is not an approved accelerator.
3. The bonfire shall be lit in multiple (more than two) locations to ensure an even burn. The only equipment used to light the fire will be the bonfire torches provided by Baylor Chamber, no cigarette lighters or matches. Any other methods to begin ignition or to accelerate the rate of the fire must be approved by Student Activities and Baylor Department of Public Safety. This may also require the approval of the Waco Fire Marshal.
4. If the wind is blowing 10 miles per hour or more, no accelerant shall be used to start the fire without consultation and approval of Baylor Department of Public Safety and Chamber sponsor.
5. Potential severe weather or strong winds may delay the start of the bonfire. If wind speeds increase to a dangerous level or weather conditions worsen after the bonfire is started, the fire may be extinguished to protect the public and nearby property

Extinguishing of the Bonfire

1. Once the homecoming celebration is complete, the Waco Fire Department will extinguish the fire.
2. After the fire has been extinguished any barriers removed or relocated during the bonfire must be returned to protect individuals from coming in contact with any sharp metal or other hazardous residual from the fire.

Questions pertaining to this guideline should be addressed with the Baylor University Fire Safety and Emergency Management Specialist at 254-710-7468.