

Town of Alpine – Discussion Guide

Subject: Review and Discussion of Ordinances No. 2020-01 (Recreational Fires) and No. 2022-13 (Pyrotechnic Devices)

Date: November 4, 2025

The following questions are provided to help guide the Town Council's review and discussion of the current ordinances regulating recreational fires and pyrotechnic devices. They are organized by topic and designed to promote conversation around enforcement, safety, coordination, and future policy considerations.

Ordinance No. 2020-01 – Recreational Fires

General Understanding

- Do we feel the current ordinance provides enough clarity on what constitutes a “recreational fire”?
- Should the Town update its definitions to align with state or county standards for consistency?

Safety & Enforcement

- How can the Town improve enforcement so responsibility does not fall on the Fire Chief?
- Should a “Nuisance of Smoke” clause be added to allow fires to be shut down when smoke impacts neighboring properties?
- Should there be an anonymous reporting system for repeated or unsafe fires?
- Should the ordinance specify that all fires must be fully extinguished when unattended and include overhead combustibles in clearance requirements?

Emergency Declarations

- Who should be responsible for making emergency declarations restricting recreational fires – the Mayor, Council, or coordination with County/Forest Service?
- What criteria should trigger such a declaration (e.g., wind speed, drought index, or red flag warnings)?

Future Planning

- Should the Town consider Firewise landscaping and fire-resistant construction standards in future planning?
- Should we change the established burn windows when recreational fires are permitted or restricted?

- Would an annual community fire safety campaign help raise awareness of safe burning practices?

Ordinance No. 2022-13 – Pyrotechnic Devices

Administrative Process

- All permitting and inspections be handled through the Town rather than the Fire Department?
- If so, who should oversee inspections – the Code Enforcement Officer?

Permit Fees and Inspections

- Remove the \$150 inspection fee payable to the Fire Department

Safety & Regulation

- Should the Town adopt or reference state fireworks inspection guidelines?
- Is the current \$1,000 permit fee still appropriate or should it be reviewed for fairness and cost recovery?
- Should the ordinance clarify that permits are non-transferable and require annual renewal?

Dry or Hazardous Conditions

- Should the criteria for declaring dry or hazardous conditions be clarified?
- Should the Town coordinate with the Fire District or County before issuing such restrictions?
- Should there be clear requirements for public notice or communication when these restrictions go into effect?

Broader Policy Discussion

- Should the Town consolidate these ordinances into a single fire safety chapter or maintain them separately?
- How can the Town ensure consistency with state, county, and federal wildfire management policies?
- Would the Council like staff to draft proposed amendments based on this feedback for review at a future meeting?
- Does the Town need to clarify enforcement capacity and staff resources if the Fire Department is no longer involved?
- Should the Council establish a review schedule (e.g., every 3–5 years) for both ordinances to stay aligned with evolving standards?