

Fire vinaya for yurts and retreat cabins (Geshe Michael's rules for the 3-year retreat)

1. Incense is OK but only in a jar with a lid with holes and with sand in the bottom, or in a covered incense burner.
2. Never leave your yurt with flame or incense lit, except for pee-pee. Blow out flame or incense whenever you leave for any other reason.
3. At night if you burn a lamp, it must be well away from sleeping area and in a fireproof container.
4. All open flames must be set upon 12" platters. This means all open flames – including incense.
5. Each retreator who has a wood stove has a metal bucket to put wood stove ash in. When the ash cools, dump it into 5-gallon buckets in the outhouses, and use them as lime in the outhouse.
6. No outside cooking, except caretakers, who may cook where they can.
7. Outdoor fires can only be made in existing or approved stone rings, only in the wash, not under a tree, not where there is any wind. No fires outside yurt, inside fence. Fire pujas only in tin can on 12" platter.
8. For non 3-year retreaters, no outdoor fires at all. Caretakers must approve of other fire use, such as tea lights or incense
9. Caretakers will approve a fireproof tea light holder and get one for everyone who comes for shorter retreats.
10. Garbage fires are OK for caretakers under these conditions: it must be in a 55-gallon drum in the wash, with a metal screen over it. Burn paper, but recycle plastic and glass. There must be two caretakers present, and fire extinguisher, rake and shovel, and an emergency horn within reach.