



SOP — Live-Fire Ash Disposal

Josper Grill & Hearth Station · High-Risk / Fire Prevention

Compliance: NFPA 96 · OSHA 1910.157 · Radnor Township Fire Code

1 · PURPOSE

To provide a standardized, safe method for removing and disposing of wood ash from the Josper grill and live-fire hearth. Improper ash disposal is the leading cause of restaurant structure fires — ash can remain hot enough to ignite combustible materials for up to 72 hours.

2 · REQUIRED PPE

- Heat-resistant gloves rated for at least 500°F.
- Safety goggles to protect against airborne ash and embers.
- Long-sleeved chef coat, fully buttoned.
- Non-slip leather footwear.

3 · SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

- The “Ash Can” — a UL-listed, double-walled galvanized steel container with a tight-fitting lid.
- The “Hearth Shovel” — long-handled metal shovel for the Josper firebox.
- The “Fire Blanket” — kept within 5 feet of the hearth at all times.

4 · STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE

Step 1 — Preparation (pre- or post-service only)

- Never clear the ash drawer at peak service temperature or while intake vents are at 100%.
- Place the metal ash can on a non-combustible surface (concrete or tile), at least 3 feet from any wall or wooden structure.

Step 2 — Extraction

- Open the bottom ash drawer slowly — a sudden influx of oxygen can cause a flash-over.
- Use the hearth shovel to gently transfer ashes into the metal can.
- The “One-Inch Rule”: leave ~1 inch of ash at the base to protect the ceramic grates.

Step 3 — Containment

- Immediately seal the can with its metal lid to limit oxygen to any remaining embers.
- Never add other trash (paper, plastic, food) to the ash can — it is a dedicated vessel.

Step 4 — External Storage

- Carry the sealed can to the external “Stone Pad.”
- The can must sit a minimum of 48 hours before contents move to a larger receptacle.

5 · EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

- **Spilled embers:** never use a broom or vacuum — use the metal shovel to return embers to the firebox or can.
- **Flare-ups:** close the ash drawer immediately and set the Josper top vent to position “0” to cut oxygen.
- **Fire:** use the Class K extinguisher for grease, or the silver water extinguisher for wood-only fires. Notify the Manager on Duty immediately.

6 · PROHIBITIONS (ZERO TOLERANCE)

- NO disposal of ash into plastic Brute bins.
- NO storage of ash cans under wooden tables or near chemicals.
- NO hearth cleaning by untrained stage or FOH staff.

Trainee signature: _____ Date: _____

Trainer initials: _____