

Campfire Building!

- 1. Should You Light a Fire?** Could you put it out in an emergency? Do you have landowner's permission? Is there a drought or fire ban? Is there too much wind? Would a camping stove work for your purposes?
- 2. Extinguishing Fires:** Never leave a fire unattended. Have water available. Stomp and use water on sparks in dry grass. Flames in vegetation - stomp and use water downwind of the flames. Work from edges to center of fire. Clothing on fire - drop and roll. Do not PAT it out - melted Dacron burns into your hands. Grease fire at camp - Drop lid onto pan or throw dirt (not water!).
- 3. Conditions to Light Fires:** Select one person to tend the fire constantly. Have shovel and buckets of water on hand. Clear away burnable materials within 6' radius of fire. Dig hole 3" deep and 1 foot in diameter for coals. Make fire ring of stones (stones from stream may explode!). On wet ground or snow, make log platform for fire. Gather fire-making materials - fine tinder, tinder, kindling, and fuel. You did bring a BIC lighter, right?
- 4. Types of Campfires:** Typical - Teepee, log cabin, pit fire. Special - Wood trench, star, Lakota double hole. Emergency - Sheltered (rain), metal hubcap, rubber tire.
- 5. Fire-Making Materials:** Spark Catcher: Dryer lint, shredded hemp rope, paper wasp nest, toilet paper, cotton fabric - or in an emergency, any of these, moistened with gasoline. Tinder: Stuff your hot coal can catch on fire - Paper or paper money (ripped up and crumpled), fuzz stick, thin, dry bark strips, dry baby twigs. Pine or softwood works best. Kindling: Bigger stuff your tinder can catch on fire - Rolled up newspaper, 3 sizes of dead, dry wooden branches. Pine or softwood works best because it will light and burn faster. Fuel: Much bigger stuff your kindling can catch on fire - Broken dry branches, small logs. Hardwoods are best because they burn slower (identify hardwoods; their leaves fall off in Fall).
- 6. Lighting the Fire:** Light Spark Catcher, put it under the tinder. Tinder should be at bottom center of firewood. Heat goes up!
- 7. Ways to Light the Spark Catcher:** BIC cigarette lighter, then light rolled up paper or candle. Magnifying glass, matches, #0000 steel wool with battery, flint & steel with charcloth, matches (*last resort, can't be replaced*).
- 8. Extinguishing Your Campfire:** Let it burn out. Drown the fire - Pour water around edges, work toward center. Feel above ashes for hot spots. If hot, stir ashes with long stick and water, like making cake mix.