

## **Fire = Steel Wool + 9V Battery!**



### **It's one of the oddest and most reliable ways to start a fire - steel wool and a 9-volt transistor radio battery!**

To make this work, first you need to have a fire ready to light. The tinder needs to be in place and ready to light. The steel wool is going to light your tinder.

Tear off a piece of steel wool about 1-inch square. Pull on it to puff it up so it's nice and stringy. Then roll it into a ball about 1" in diameter. Put the ball under your tinder.

Your 9-volt transistor radio battery has two shiny electrodes. Put them into the ball of steel wool, and immediately pull the battery out. You will find steel wool burning red hot! Blow on it gently to set your tinder on fire. You have a fire!

Here's how it works. Steel wool IS made of steel, and you wouldn't think you could burn steel. However, steel wool is wooly, with a tremendous amount of surface area for the weight of the steel. The steel wool is so thin that it resembles the filament in an incandescent light bulb. Pass electricity through it, and it will burn red hot, or even white hot! That's enough heat to set the whole piece of steel wool burning.

When you aren't using the steel wool to start fires, keep it in a sealed plastic bag to prevent it from rusting. Starting a fire can take a lot out of your 9-volt battery. A fresh battery is recommended for each fire started in the boonies. I've started a fire with two 1-1/2-volt D-cell flashlight batteries and wires, too. The battery in your car, with a length of wire or coat hanger wire, can also start steel wool on fire. The girls were sure impressed with THIS trick!