

1. Use a Pre-Existing Site

If one is not available, build on a durable surface such as sand, rocks or dirt.

2. Clear the Area

Clear leaves, grass and sticks for five or more feet around the spot for the fire with no overhead trees.

3. Provide a Means for Putting Out the Fire

- Designate a bucket of water or sand to be left by the fire scar.
- Shovel or rake
- Fire gloves or leather gloves

4. Gather Your Wood Following Current State Environmental Guidelines

- Do not use paper or leaves as they burn out quickly, get caught by the wind and fly away still lit.
- Make sure your wood is dry. Dry wood breaks easily and is not green. Moldy or rotten wood will not burn and should be left in the forest.
- Your wood pile should be away from the fire.

5. Tie back long hair or use a bandana.

- Check for loose or dangling clothing or accessories and synthetic fabrics. Plastic ponchos/ raincoats and nylon clothing are especially dangerous around a fire.
- Girls must know to "stop, drop and roll" if their clothing catches on fire.
- Do not play with the fire or allow horseplay in the area near the fire.

6. Lay your fire

- Build it close enough to the edge of the fire ring that you don't have to step into the fire ring to reach it.
- Build the fire no bigger than you need.

7. Light the fire and never leave a fire unattended.

A fire needs 3 things to burn- remove any and the fire will go out:

AIR
HEAT (Flame)
FUEL (Charcoal or Wood)

Type of Wood	Description	Notes
Tinder	Tiny- twigs smaller than your pinky.	This material catches fire easily from a match and starts the fire.
Kindling	Bigger- material smaller than your thumb.	Dry sticks and twigs Leave them long in length. This gets the fire going.
Fuel	Logs- Anything bigger than kindling. No bigger than your wrist.	Good firm pieces of wood. Charcoal can also be used as fuel.

Putting Out the Fire

1. Let it die down as much as possible.
2. Break up pieces (using shovel) and spread out coals.
3. Sprinkle with water-do not pour water directly onto fire as a cloud of ashes will form or a there may be a hot rock that will explode.
4. Continue sprinkling until there are no live coals.
5. When you can touch the ashes/coals with your hand the fire is out.
6. Shovel cooled ashes into ashbin at site.

How to Build a Fire in a Fireplace

Many cabins, including the ones at our council's properties, have fireplaces. Some locations have a supply of cut wood available and others do not. If you are sure you want to build a fire in the fireplace, bring your own wood to be sure. Follow government guide lines for wood transportation.

NO cooking is allowed in the fireplaces.

- Keep a fire extinguisher or bucket of sand close .
 - Clear the area around the fireplace of potentially flammable materials.
 - Open the flue. Contact the property manager if you can't determine if the flu is open or you are having difficulty lighting the fire.
 - Use a fireplace grate, if one is available.
 - You may have glass doors and may keep them open during the fire.
 - Use fireplace tools to tend the fire.
 - Build a safe fire, not one that is too large.
- Always close the fire screen when the fireplace is in use.

LAYING an A-FRAME FIRE

Set up your fire ring with water bucket and shovel

1. Lay the frame with 3 pieces of kindling about one inch in diameter and 6-8" long placed in a triangle with the open end facing the wind.
2. Place the tinder upright, leaning against the crossbar. Leave room to place a match underneath.
3. Lean thin pieces of kindling on top of the tinder, across the crossbar.
4. Light the fire with a match held to the underside of the tinder. Feed the fire quickly, one piece at a time.
5. Add fuel to the fire, one piece at a time, being careful not to smother the flames. Shape the fire through your placement of the fuel.



EDIBLE FIRE FOR YOUNG CAMPERS

A neat way to teach beginning fire building!

You will need:

- Water Bucket – glass of water
- Fire Scar – napkin
- Circle of Safety – mini-marshmallows
- Fuel – Wood – pretzels (3"x ½")
- Charcoal - raisins
- Kindling – thin pretzels
- Tinder – coconut
- Flames – candy corn

Instructions:

1. Fill glass with water.
2. Place napkin on table.
3. Place mini-marshmallows in a ring on top of the napkin.
4. Place two large pretzels inside the marshmallow ring, in the shape of a "V".
5. Place one pretzel on top of the first two across the open end forming a triangle
6. Place raisins inside of the triangle.
7. Place small pretzels inside the large pretzels forming a teepee.
8. Sprinkle with coconut and place candy corn on top of the coconut.

REMEMBER: *Real fires do not need both wood and charcoal fuel, but a wood fire could be used to start charcoal.*

Hardwood

Hardwood burns slowly and gives lasting coals.

- Hickory
- Locust (good for a night fire)
- Beech
- Hard Maple
- Black Walnut
- Pecan
- White Oak

Softwood

Softwood is used for kindling or for quick cooking fires that are quickly consumed and burn to ashes without leaving coals.

- Seasoned Chestnut
- Basswood
- Soft Maple
- Cottonwood
- Sycamore
- Buckeye