

## Campfire Safety



### SUMMARY

Who doesn't love a glowing campfire at the end of the day? However, to make sure it won't be your tent that burns, let's look at some good fire safety practices.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Handbooks for each program have useful tips for campfires. Here are a few highlights:

#### Environmental conditions

- Leaders should understand the local campfire regulations or requirements.
- Beware of current fire conditions, especially if it has been dry and windy. Check for any active burn ban.
- Consider wind direction and projected size of fire before starting.

#### Maintain your campsite

- Use an established campfire ring, if available, and keep your campfire size appropriate.
- Be sure your fire is a minimum of 15 feet from tents, shrubs, trees or other flammable objects. Always check for low-hanging branches above the fire.
- Store matches, lighters, and items used as fire starters in a secure waterproof box or bag outside of your tent. In bear country store away from your campsite.

#### Additives and Fire Extinguishing

- Additives to the fire are [prohibited](#). This includes chemicals, accelerants, color-changers, and other flame-enhancing products like Magical Flames™.
- Avoid cooking over a fire where chemicals or additives have been previously used.
- Always extinguish campfires properly. Ensure campfires are completely cold-out. Do a test on cooled ash for any sign of heat before you consider the fire extinguished.

#### Emergency Response

- Never leave a campfire unattended. Prepare a unit fireguard, and practice it.
- Always have a shovel/rake and water or other extinguishing materials handy.
- Be prepared to respond to burns or someone on fire with "Stop, drop, and roll."

### RESOURCES

- [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
- [Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities](#)
- [Storing, Handling, and Using Chemical Fuels and Equipment](#)
- [Leave No Trace](#)
- [Unit Fireguard Plan and Chart](#)