

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

for building
and putting
out your
campfire.



Building a Safe Campfire



Campfires may be banned if wildfires are likely. Watch for signs, obey them and encourage others to do the same.



Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass and leaves.



Keep the campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Use an existing fire ring.



Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.



Start with dry twigs and small sticks. Remember, a good firebuilder never needs gas or kerosene to start a fire.



Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Avoid using hatchets, saws, or breaking branches off trees. Dead and down wood burns easily.



Put the big pieces on last, pointing them toward the center, and into the flames. Use wood no larger than the diameter of an adult wrist.

Putting Out a Campfire



Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.



Be sure your match is out cold. Break it so you can feel the charred portion before carefully discarding it.



Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers and sticks are wet. Move rocks - there may be burning embers underneath.



Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all wood has been put out and cooled. Smaller pieces are easier to put out.



Feel above the fire with the back of your hand. Make sure it is out cold.

This is a cooperative safety program by the Inyo National Forest and the Bishop Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. For additional information call: 760-873-2400.



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