

WILDLAND FIRE OUTDOOR FIRE SAFETY

Building and Putting Out a Campfire

- Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass and leaves.
- Keep water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Start your fire with dry twigs and small sticks.
- Add larger sticks as the fire builds up.
- Keep the campfire small. Scrape away any burnable material within a 10 foot diameter circle.
- Be sure your match is out. Feel the charred portion, making sure it is cool, before discarding.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. Move rocks—there may be burning embers underneath.
- Stir the remains of the fire and add more water, then stir again. If you do not have water, use dirt. Continue adding and stirring until all materials are cooled.
- Feel all materials with your bare hands. Do not bury your coals—they can smolder and break out.

Charcoal Briquettes

- After using the burning charcoal briquettes, “dunk `em!”
- Soak the coals with lots of water, stir and soak again.
- Make sure the coals are out—cold!

Smoking

When smoking is permitted outdoors, safe practices require at least a 3 foot clearing around the smoker. Grind your cigarette, cigar, or pipe tobacco in the dirt, never into a stump or log. It is unsafe to smoke while walking or riding a horse or trail bike. Use your ashtray while in your car.

Household Trash

- If you must burn trash, don't pile it on the ground.
- Local fire departments can recommend a safe receptacle for burning trash.
- Never attempt to burn aerosol cans; heated they can explode.

Debris

- Check local laws on burning.
- Check the weather; do not burn on dry, windy days.
- Consider alternatives to burning.
- If you must burn debris, do it safely.

Agricultural Residue and Forest Litter

- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning off your field or garden spot.
- To control the fire, you will need a source of water, a bucket, and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire.
- A fire line should be plowed around the area to be burned.
- Large fields should be separated into small plots for burning one at a time.
- Be sure to stay with your fire until it is out.
- Before doing any burning in a wooded area, contact your local forester. The forester will weigh all factors, explain them to you, and offer technical advice.

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