

Smokey Bear's Campfire Safety Guide



Cool Campfires!

Here's how to safely build three kinds of campfires:



- **TEPEE:** Make a pile of tinder and arrange your kindling over it like the poles of a tepee. Keep the tepee shape as you add more wood to the fire, and be careful that the tepee doesn't tip over.



- **CROSS FIRE:** Place a pile of tinder between two parallel pieces of kindling. Once the fire is burning, lay more pieces of kindling across the fire perpendicular to the first pair. As you add larger sticks to the fire, make each new layer perpendicular to the last, building a pyramid shape.



- **LOG CABIN:** Surround your tinder pile with a square of kindling built by laying two sticks parallel on either side of the tinder, then two sticks on top of and perpendicular to the first pair. Build up several levels and end with a "roof" of small kindling across the top. Add larger sticks in pairs to keep the fire's log cabin shape.

Use This Checklist to Make Sure Your Campfire is Safe.

DO

- ☐ Light a fire only when an adult is present and in charge.
- ☐ Keep young children and pets away from the fire.
- ☐ Make sure your campfire is a safe distance from your tent or anything that can burn.
- ☐ Use rocks to create a fire ring in the center of a large cleared area.
- ☐ Use the Drown-Stir-Drown-Feel method to put out your campfire safely.

DON'T

- X Don't start a campfire when it is windy.
- X Don't leave a fire unattended.
- X Don't leave your fire without first putting it completely out.
- X Don't use flammable liquids to start a campfire.
- X Don't extinguish a campfire with just dirt or sand — add H₂O!
- X Don't bury warm/hot coals or ashes in a campfire pit.
- X Don't burn glass, cans, plastics, or garbage in your campfire.
- X Don't play or goof around near a campfire.



Find out more about
preventing wildfires at
www.SmokeyBear.com



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