

CAMPFIRE SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

A campfire can be the highlight of the evening, but without proper precautions, it can quickly become a serious hazard. Whether you're camping, at the cottage, or enjoying your backyard, safe campfire practices matter.



1 Before You Start a Fire: Set up safely before the first spark

- Check for fire bans or restrictions in your area.
- Use only a compliant fire pit installed on a non-combustible surface.
- Ensure the area around the fire is clear of debris, including overhanging branches.
- Keep campfires well away from structures such as sheds, houses, decks, and patios.
- Start fires with kindling such as twigs or newspaper. Never use gasoline or other accelerants.
- Store extra wood and other combustible materials away from the fire.
- Do not build a campfire if conditions are too windy.



2 Around the Fire: Stay alert while the fire is burning

- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Keep a bucket of water or sand and a shovel within arm's reach at all times.
- Maintain a small, controlled fire that can be easily extinguished if necessary.
- Never reach into the fire to adjust burning wood, even if recently added.
- Do not throw garbage, aerosols, or combustible materials into the flames.
- Watch for sparks that may fly out of the fire and extinguish them immediately.



3 Put It Out Properly: A fire is not out until it is fully extinguished

- Completely extinguish the fire before leaving the area or going to sleep.
- If possible, allow the fire to burn down until only coals or ashes remain.
- Pour water over the fire until no red embers remain and no hissing sound is heard.
- Stir ashes thoroughly with a shovel to ensure all material is wet.
- Remember: fires can continue burning underground and reignite later if not fully extinguished.

A campfire should create memories, not emergencies.

