

Recreational Campfire Safety

Having a campfire? Here are some tips to keep in mind to ensure a safe and enjoyable campfire experience. All open air fires require a burn permit, please ensure you check the fire status before starting your campfire.

Select Your Site

- In campgrounds or recreational areas, use the designated stoves, rings or fire pits. They are designed to keep fires from spreading and are the best choice for a safe campfire.
- When setting up a site in your yard, or property, use sites that are clear of dry grass, bushes, leaves, debris, and other combustible materials. If the site has already been used for campfire, use the same site.
- Build your campfires on level ground that is sheltered from wind and is 3 meters or 10 feet from structures or other combustibles such as decks, trees, brush, and sheds.
- Check overhead, do not build your site with trees, power lines, and other obstacles above the fire.
- If you can't build your fire near a water source, have a large container of water nearby to keep your campfire under control. When you are done, fully extinguish it by **soaking it, stirring it, and soaking it again.**

Prepare Your Campfire – Tools Needed

- A shovel or spade
- An axe or hatchet
- Enough water to fully extinguish your campfire

The Site

Where there is not a dedicated fire ring, use these instructions:

- Make a circle about 1 metre or 3 feet round
- Dig or scrape down to the mineral soil
- Clear away any flammable materials within 1 metre or 3 feet of the pit
- Use rocks, stones, gravel, or steel to encircle the pit to keep the fire contained
- Use a screen, such as expanded metal to reduce sparks that could cause the fire to spread

Extinguish Your Campfire – Soak It, Stir It, and Soak It Again

- Let the fire burn down before you plan on putting it out. Spread the embers within the fire pit, then add water or loose dirt and stir.
- Expose any material still burning. Add more water and stir again until you can no longer see smoke or steam. Do not bury your fire as the embers may continue to smoulder and can re-emerge and may spread to the surrounding environment or structures.
- Repeat until your campfire is cool to the touch.
- If your fire is out, you should not be able to feel any heat from the ashes.

Never leave your fire unattended, fire can spread fast and cause a lot of damage, ensure that your fire is manageable, and you are capable of controlling and extinguishing your fire safely.

