



Campfire Tips

Keep a shovel and bucket of water nearby to extinguish the campfire.

Clear all flammable vegetation at least 5 feet in all directions.

How to Build an Open Campfire



1. Make sure you get a permit. Your campfire permit is valid from the date issued until the end of the calendar year.
2. Select a level, shaded location away from heavy fuels such as logs, brush or decaying leaves and needles.
3. Use a shovel to clear an area at least 5 feet in diameter (local regulations may vary). Scrape away grass, leaves or needles down to the mineral soil.
4. Scoop a depression in the center of the cleared area in which to build the fire and put a ring of rocks around it.
5. Cut wood in short lengths, pile within cleared area and light the fire. The fire should be built no larger than necessary.
6. Fire must **never** be left unattended and the fire must be extinguished completely before everyone leaves camp.

Health and Safety Codes

- **13007. Liability for Damage.** Any person, who personally or allows another person to willfully, negligently or in violation of law, set fire to, allows fire to be set to, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, is liable to the property's owner for any damages caused by the fire.
- **13008. Due Diligence Required.** Any person who allows a fire burning upon his or her property to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, without exercising due diligence to control such fire, is liable to the owner of such property for the damages to the property caused by the fire.
- **13009. Expense of fighting fires, liability for.** Any person who negligently, or in violation of the law, sets a fire, allows a fire to be set, allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape onto any public or private property will be financially responsible for the firefighting costs.

How to Completely Extinguish an Open Campfire

1. Fill a bucket with water and pour it on the campfire while completely stirring and wetting all the ashes. Turn wood and coals over and wet all sides.
2. Move some of the dirt immediately adjacent to the fire into the fire and mix thoroughly.
3. Feel with your hand all around fire to be sure nothing is still smoldering.

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Public Resources Code

- **4103.5 Campfire Defined**—“Campfire” means a fire which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial or aesthetic purposes. This includes fires contained within outdoor fireplaces and enclosed stoves with flues or chimneys, stoves using jellied, liquid, solid, or gaseous fuels, portable barbecue pits and braziers, or space heating devices which are used outside any structure, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle. “Campfire” does not include portable lanterns designed to emit light resulting from a combustion process.
- **4432. Neglecting Campfire**—A person shall not leave a campfire, kindled or attended by him or her, burning or unextinguished unless one of the following requirements are satisfied:
 - a. He or she leaves some person in attendance.
 - b. The fire is enclosed within a stove, oven, drum, or other nonflammable container, in such manner that the fire cannot escape from the container.No person shall allow a campfire, kindled or attended by him or her to spread after it is built.
- **4433. Permits Required**—A person shall not light, maintain, or use a campfire upon any brush-covered land, grass-covered land, or forest-covered land which is the property of another person unless he or she first obtains a written permit from the owner, lessee, or agent of the owner or lessee of the property. If, however, campsites and special areas have been established by the property owner and posted as areas for camping, a permit is not necessary. A written campfire permit duly issued by or under the authority of the United States Forest Service is necessary for use on land under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Forest Service.
- **4434. Campfire Escape**—The escape of any campfire from the control of any person who is maintaining the campfire is prima facie evidence that such person was negligent in maintaining the campfire.



If you don't prevent fires - who will?

www.fire.ca.gov

