

Campfire Safety Tips

An open campfire can be useful and fun, but if it is not built correctly, used wisely and put out properly it can be dangerous and cause a bushfire.

Here are some safety tips for campfires.

Before you light the fire:

- Make sure you are allowed to light one. In some places, and at some times of the year, campfires are not allowed.
- Check the weather. If it is dry and windy don't light a fire.
- Check fire warnings. If it is a Total Fire Ban or the Fire Danger Rating is very high, severe, extreme or catastrophic (Code Red) do not light a fire.



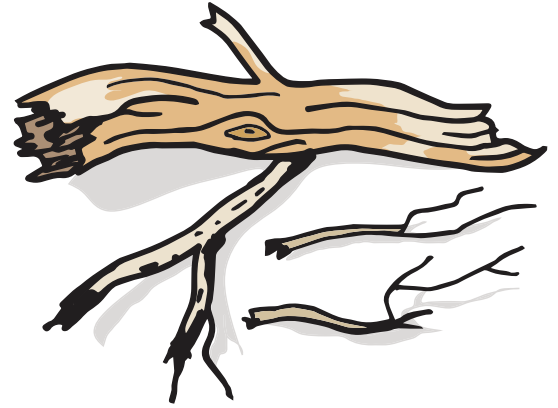
Building the fire:

- Make sure the area around the fire is clear. Check that there is no dry vegetation or overhanging branches.
- Create a border around the fire using rocks, but make sure you don't use river or creek rocks as they can shatter.
- Make sure that items such as tents, gas bottles, fuel cans and any other camping equipment are at least four metres away from the fire.



Looking after the fire:

- Keep the fire just big enough for cooking or keeping warm.
- Make sure an adult is always watching the fire.
- Keep children and pets away from the fire.
- Only use fallen dead wood for your fire. Taking leaves and branches from living trees damages the environment and they can make a lot of smoke.



Putting out the fire:

- Make sure you completely extinguish your fire before you go to sleep or leave the area.
- Only use water (or a fire extinguisher) to extinguish the fire. If you use soil the fire can still smoulder and stay hot for a long time.

