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### **How to Build a Campfire**

Although we live in an age where warmth and light are given to us always, there is a possibility you will find yourself in the woods on a cold night alone. What do you need to survive? A campfire is essential, and every person should know how to build one, so they can survive the night.

Building a campfire will require 5 steps:

1. Creating the fire bed
2. Gathering of the supplies to make the fire
3. Building the correct structure for the campfire
4. Maintaining the campfire so it stays lit and cozy
5. Putting out the fire

Material necessary for building a campfire

Tinder,

Kindling,

Fuel wood

Lighter or any method of producing a flame

Water source

You must know the difference between the 3 types of wood in this procedure

Tinder: This type of wood is the smallest kind compared to kindling and fuel wood. Tinder catches fire easily; however, it burns very fast. Material like dry leaves, dry bark, wood shavings, dry grass.

Kindling: Tinder burns too fast, so we need some other material to keep the flame going.

Kindling consist of small twigs and branches, like tinder kindling needs to be dry so it will burn.

Fuel wood: Fuel wood is what keeps the fire hot and burning. It doesn't have to be huge logs, but it should be bigger than the kindling that you use.

### Step 1: Creating the fire bed

When creating your fire bed always look around the area you want to start your fire in. Think about your safety and look for an area that isn't close to any trees, bushes or any other plant material. Your fire bed should be placed on bare earth meaning there should be no grass or anything that can burn. To make the fire bed gather in dirt and place it in the center of your clear area. Form the dirt into a platform shape like a plateau about 3-4 inches thick.

### Step 2: Gathering your materials

Gather the materials necessary for your campfire, tinder, kindling and fuel wood. Look for tinder material, gather enough tinder to match how much you can hold in both hands. For kindling you should look for sticks that branches that are no thicker than an inch or two. Gather enough kindling so that you can hold all of it in between your arms and chest, a generous armload. Lastly for fuel wood you will need to find branches or sticks as thick as your wrist and about if your arm. You should gather enough fuel wood so that the stack of wood reaches to about your knee caps.

A general tip for gather materials: If the stick or branch can bend and not break it means that its not dry enough and will not burn as easily. Look for wood that snaps and breaks easily.

### Step 3: Building your campfire.

1. Place the tinder bundle you gathered in the middle of your campfire site.
2. Above the tinder bundle, form a teepee shape with some kindling. A teepee shape will look like building a isosceles triangle with the kindling acting as the two same length sides and the camp fire bed acting as the third side.

3. Leave an opening in the teepee on the side the wind is blowing from. This is to ensure that your fire gets the oxygen it needs and will blow the flames into the kindling.
4. Create another teepee, this time using the fuel wood you gathered. The position of fuel wood should mirror the exact same as the kindling wood you just made a teepee with. It should now look like you have an outer teepee made of fuel wood and an inner teepee made of kindling.
5. Light the tinder that is under the teepees, this will in turn start to light the kindling material you just made on fire. After the kindling is lit the result will be the lighting of the fuel wood.
6. Eventually the structures of the teepees will fail and fall, not to worry anymore just add more fuel wood to the fire and it will preserve the campfire.

#### Step 4: Putting out the fire

Plan when you want to put out your fire, have a plentiful container of water, about a bucket worth. When its time to put out the fire don't immediately pour all the water on the fire, you don't want to flood the area. The correct method is the sprinkle water onto the fire and stir the fire sticks as you do it. This ensures that the ashes will be wet and won't reignite. When you don't see anymore steam or hear hissing from the fire after water is being poured onto it, it is an indication that the fire is almost out. Place your hand over the now extinguished campfire and if you feel an extra heat coming from the campfire pour more water over it. Once there is no more extra heat or visible embers you can safely leave the area.