



# Standard Operating Procedure For Starting a Campfire

SOP CF-001

Release 1

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## Standard Operating Procedure for Starting a Campfire CF-001, Release 1

**SOP Scope:** CA State Parks

**Functional Group:** CA State Parks

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## 1. PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) instructs a user to safely light a campfire.

## 2. SCOPE

This SOP is applicable to recreational campfires within California State Park Campgrounds. This SOP is not intended for tangentially related fires such as beach bonfires, wilderness survival fires, and cooking fires.

## 3. RESPONSIBILITY

3.1 Campground Users are responsible for:

- 3.1.1 Procuring material and equipment
- 3.1.2 Lighting the campfire
- 3.1.3 Fueling the fire
- 3.1.4 Supervising the flame and surrounding area
- 3.1.5 Extinguishing the firepit when ceasing recreation
- 3.1.6 Contacting Park Staff and emergency services if needed

3.2 California State Parks is responsible for:

- 3.2.1 Selling firewood to campers
- 3.2.2 Managing campground lots
- 3.2.3 Enforcing campground rules and regulations
- 3.2.4 Keeping log reports of camp activity
- 3.2.5 Managing emergency situations and contacting further emergency services if needed

## 4. ASSOCIATED FORMS

- 4.1 Campground Firewood Receipt
- 4.2 Campground Firepit Reservation Receipt

## 5. DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 Tinder: Easily combustible material needed to start a flame. Examples include leaves, bark, fluff, pine needles, and tinder fungus.
- 5.2 Kindling: Readily flammable material used to grow a flame. Examples include twigs, branches, pinecones, and fatwood.
- 5.3 Fatwood: Resin-soaked wood found within a tree. Highly flammable example of kindling.
- 5.4 Tinder Fungus: Various species of wood bark growing mushroom. Flammable when dry.
- 5.5 Spark: A luminous hot particle. Created from striking flint with steel.
- 5.6 Carbon Monoxide (CO): Colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas formed by incomplete combustion of carbon. Replaces Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) within the lungs.
- 5.7 Gatehouse: A shack used by park staff to collect entry fees for vehicles as well as keep log of campground reservations.

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## 6. REFERENCES

- 6.1 Flint and Steel Fire Striker Instruction Set

## 7. SAFETY

- 7.1 Carbon Monoxide is a byproduct of the burning of firewood. Users should keep a comfortable distance from the burning fire and avoid inhaling the top of the fire column.
- 7.2 A bucket of water is needed to put the fire and/or the embers out. Do not leave a firepit unsupervised, even if there is no active flame. Embers have potential to reignite new material.
- 7.3 A fire extinguisher is crucial in putting out a spreading fire. If the fire is uncontrollable by fire extinguisher: save yourself and escape the reach of the flames.

## 8. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

### 8.1 Materials

- 8.1.1 Logs — 1 bundle
- 8.1.2 Tinder — 1 or 2 handfuls
- 8.1.3 Kindling — A generous armful

### 8.2 Equipment

- 8.2.1 Flint and Steel
- 8.2.2 Bucket of water
- 8.2.3 Fire extinguisher
- 8.2.4 Lighter Fluid

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## 9. MAIN BODY OF SOP — PROCEDURE

### 9.1 THE CAMPFIRE

- 9.1.1 Check in with CA State Park staff at the gatehouse
- 9.1.2 Tape the check-in receipt to your vehicle
- 9.1.3 Purchase firewood from the campground or bring your own
- 9.1.4 Set up the campsite and ready the equipment and materials for fire-starting
- 9.1.5 Utilize the metal firepit provided within the campsite
- 9.1.6 Assemble a teepee out prepurchased logs
- 9.1.7 Apply lighter fluid to the teepee if desired--it will assist in ignition
- 9.1.8 Pack the teepee with flammable tinder such as leaves and pine needles
  - 9.1.8.1 If you were provided with a receipt for firewood, you may use it as tinder
- 9.1.9 Brace the packed tinder with kindling such as sticks or tree bark
- 9.1.10 In a spot sheltered from wind, strike the flint with the steel onto a bundle of tinder
- 9.1.11 Refer to the instructions provided with your flint and steel, if necessary
- 9.1.12 Once a flame is created, lightly blow onto it to keep it oxygenated
- 9.1.13 Transfer the flame to the kindling at the base of the constructed teepee
- 9.1.14 The teepee should catch and sustain flame
- 9.1.15 Fuel the fire with additional logs as desired
- 9.1.16 Carbon Monoxide may be expelled from the top of the smokestack. Take care to not directly inhale fumes from the campfire.
- 9.1.17 Utilize a bucket of water to smother the flame and/or embers once the campfire is no longer needed. An unsupervised flame can cause a wildfire.
- 9.1.18 Utilize a fire extinguisher in case of a fire emergency. If the fire grows to unsafe levels: save yourself and vacate the area.
- 9.1.19 Repeat steps 9.1.5 thru 9.1.15 for subsequent campfires
- 9.1.20 Repeat steps 9.1.16 thru 9.1.18 when ending subsequent campfire sessions

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## 10. DOCUMENTATION

- 10.1 CA State Park employees will keep a log of the user and campsite they stayed at. Staff will inspect the campsite and metal firepit before the next user checks in.

## 11. HISTORY

<u>Release No.</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason/Justification for Change</u>
1	10/21/24	First draft with most major content implemented
2	«effective_date»	New
3		

## 12. ATTACHMENTS

N/A