

## KEEPING THE AIR ON SHINNECOCK SAFE FOR EVERYONE

Bonfires are commonplace on Shinnecock. We seem to be inherently drawn to fire for its cleansing and calming effects. We all enjoy sitting around the fire and the togetherness it invites. However, we need to be safe and responsible when engaging in this activity. Our fires are about many things including socializing, honoring those who have passed, and cleansing our spirits through prayer. Information helps us make better choices and we want to make the best choice possible, in the times.

- **No high-wind nights**
- Keep a bucket of **water** or garden hose nearby in case the fire begins to spread. It is important to be prepared in case of emergency.
- Keep a **close eye** on the bonfire
- **Do not burn aerosols, canisters** or anything containing foam or paint. These types of chemicals have extremely flammable ingredients that can cause fire to spread or produce toxic fumes. Containers of these products could explode, causing injury.
- Ensure the wood you are burning is dry and seasoned. This means no railroad ties, nothing coated or treated and **no furniture, no plastic should be thrown in the fire.**
- The pile should be small and manageable
- After the bonfire is done, turn over the charred materials with metal shovels and rakes, and douse the area with water. **PLEASE PUT THE FIRE OUT**

### Burning plastic

- **Releases chemicals known to be carcinogens**
- **Releases air pollutants that contribute to climate change**
- **Residual chemicals land on soil and in water...eventually entering the food chain**
- **Increased risk of heart disease**
- **Aggravates asthma and emphysema, we have those in the community with sensitive respiratory systems**
- **Damages the nervous system**
- **Smoke and soot can travel long distances impacting many on Shinnecock**

We urge you to make the best choices when you are enjoying this activity. We hope that we can all help keep Shinnecock safe from unnecessary environmental health threats. Share your knowledge and help others make better choices.

Sincerely,

The Shinnecock Environmental Dept.

