



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

CAMPFIRE TIPS

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND PROTECTION

PERMIT

Secure necessary permit.
Regulations vary by location.
(See reverse side)

WATCH

Campfires must be
attended at all times.
(See reverse PRC. 4432)

OUT

Completely extinguish
campfires before leaving.
(See reverse side)



If you don't prevent fires - who will?

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 shovel to clear an area at least 10 feet in diameter (local regulations vary). Scrape away all grass, leaves or needles and down to 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 CODE

13007. Liability for Damage. Any person who personally or through another willfully, negligently, or in violation of law, sets fire to, allows fire to be set to, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him to escape to, the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, is liable to the owner of such property for any damages to the property caused by the fire.

13008. Due Diligence Required. Any person who allows any fire burning upon his 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, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him 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 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.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

4103.5 **Campfire Defined** - "Campfire" means a fire which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes, including 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, mobilehome, 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, burning or unextinguished unless one of the following requirements is satisfied:

- (a) He 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, 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 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.