

Building a Fire

Practical skills

The three stages of fuel, and the safety rules that are not optional.

Educational reference. Check that fires are permitted before lighting one.

1

Check it is allowed

Many areas ban fires entirely, especially in dry seasons.

2

Clear and contain

Bare earth or stone, three metres clear of anything flammable.

3

Tinder

Dry grass, birch bark, cotton wool. Catches from a spark.

4

Kindling

Pencil-thick dry sticks, built loosely so air can move.

5

Fuel

Thicker wood, added only once the kindling burns steadily.

6

Extinguish completely

Water, stir, water again. Cool to the touch before leaving.

FIRE NEEDS THREE THINGS

Fuel, heat and oxygen

A failing fire is almost always short of air

Build loosely, not in a tight pile

Educational reference. Never leave a fire unattended, and drown it completely — embers can reignite hours later.