

CAMPFIRE SAFETY



Before Lighting a Fire

- **Check Local Restrictions:** Open burning is prohibited when conditions make it hazardous. Always verify any burn bans or restrictions in your area before starting a fire.
- **Get Permission if Needed:** A permit may be required for bonfires or other specific open burns. Check with local fire officials for regulations.
- **Choose a Safe Location:** Campfires must be at least 25 feet from structures and combustible materials. Bonfires require a 50-foot clearance.
- **Use a Fire Pit or Approved Container:** If using a portable outdoor fireplace, follow the manufacturer's instructions and place it at least 15 feet from buildings and flammable objects.
- **Prepare the Area:** Clear dry grass, leaves, and flammable debris from around the fire site.



Building and Managing Your Campfire

- **Keep It Small:** A safe campfire should be no more than 3 feet wide and 2 feet high.
- **Use Safe Fuel:** Only burn dry wood, logs, or charcoal. Do not burn trash, treated wood, or accelerants like gasoline.
- **Never Leave It Unattended:** A responsible adult must be present at all times while the fire is burning.
- **Control the Flames:** Keep fires manageable and avoid flames getting too high.
- **Have Extinguishing Equipment Ready:** Always keep a bucket of water, garden hose, sand, dirt, or a fire extinguisher nearby.



Extinguishing Your Fire Safely

- **Drown the Fire:** Pour plenty of water on the fire, stirring the embers to ensure all hot spots are out.
- **Check for Heat:** Hold your hand a few inches above the embers. If it's still warm, continue adding water or dirt until it's completely cold.
- **Never Leave a Smoldering Fire:** Ensure the fire is completely extinguished before you leave.

NORTH DAKOTA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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