

SUMMER SAFETY: Campfire Safety Tips



EVERY YEAR, BRITISH COLUMBIANS SUFFER SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH DUE TO GETTING BURNED WHILE CAMPING

– many are children. Prevention is still the best way to avoid camping-related fires and burn injuries. Follow the simple preventive tips below to enjoy a fire safe camping season.



BUILDING A CAMPFIRE

- » **CHECK** for any campfire bans before you begin. Online at: www.bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp
- » **NEVER** use gasoline to start a campfire.
- » **NEVER** leave your campfire unattended.
- » **NEVER** leave children unattended or playing near a campfire.
- » **USE** your campfire for cooking or warmth and keep it small.
- » **BUILD** your campfire downwind, away from your tent, clearing away all dry vegetation and digging a pit surrounded by rocks – all debris should be at least one metre away.
- » **KEEP** a sufficient supply of water nearby and before leaving your campsite, pour water on the fire and douse thoroughly. Stir the campfire until the ashes are cool to the touch.



TENTS AND CAMPFIRE SAFETY

- » **SET UP** tents at a safe distance from the campfire.
- » **NEVER** smoke, use matches, candles or open flames in your tent.
- » **NEVER** refuel camping appliances or cook inside your tent.
- » **NEVER** store flammable liquids in your tent.
- » **USE** battery operated camping equipment, such as flashlights inside the tent.
- » **PLEASE** remember that tents made of flame-resistant fabric and are **NOT** fire-proof. The fabric will burn if left in continuous contact with any flame source.



CAMPING TRAILERS

- » **CHECK** and maintain all gas connections and fume vents.
- » **KEEP** all combustibles away from cooking and heating equipment.
- » **EXTINGUISH** smoking materials before going to bed.
- » **DEVELOP** a fire escape plan, install working smoke alarms, and keep a small axe handy for emergency escapes.
- » **KEEP** a fire extinguisher handy when cooking, and keep one by the trailer exit door at all times.
- » **PLEASE** review BC Safety Authority RV Propane Safety: www.safetyauthority.ca/rv-propane-safety

In addition to safety concerns, abandoned campfires pose serious problems for the B.C. Forest Service Protection Branch each year. Forest fires caused by carelessness can threaten and destroy homes, communities, forests, and other values.

