

# Smokey's Wildfire Prevention Detectives Skills Test

Like the song\* says, Smokey Bear can spot a wildfire "before it starts to flame." Can you? Test your Wildfire Detective skills with these outdoor scenes. Need help? Look for the answers at the bottom of the poster.



1. What wildfire prevention advice would you bring to this party?



2. Patrol this backyard for behaviors that could cause a wildfire. How many can you see?



3. Can you tell these friends the safe way to leave a campsite?

Be smart, don't let a wildfire start. Only YOU can prevent wildfires!



**Answers**

- \* Listen to Smokey Bear's song at [www.SmokeyBear.com/vault/#prettyPhoto\[1950sR\]/0/](http://www.SmokeyBear.com/vault/#prettyPhoto[1950sR]/0/).
- 1. This campfire is too large for safety; position the campfire away from low-hanging branches and in the middle of a 10-foot diameter area cleared to bare ground; NEVER use gasoline to start any fire; ALWAYS have a bucket of water and a shovel nearby to put out your campfire; extinguish the fire burning in the grill; don't park in tall grass as it can catch fire from the exhaust system.
- 2. Where legal, burn yard debris in a covered container; NEVER burn yard debris on a windy day; position the fire away from low-hanging branches in a 10-foot diameter area cleared to bare ground; have a garden hose ready to extinguish the fire; adjust the grill controls to avoid flame ups; NEVER allow children near a fire without adult supervision; ALWAYS keep your eyes on any outdoor fire. Be sure to check with local agencies that regulate outdoor residential burning to ensure that your fire meets all rules and laws. Even better: use a chipper to compost small branches, leaves, and other yard debris.
- 3. Position the campfire in the middle of a 10-foot diameter area cleared to bare ground; circle the fire with rocks to create a barrier; pile kindling and firewood at the edge of the cleared area; store matches away after you've lit your fire; use plenty of water to extinguish a campfire — with a shovel, stir the water and ashes together into a muck, then down the ashes again, and check to be sure they are cold before you leave. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

# Smokey Bear's Campfire Safety Guide



## Cool Campfires!

Here's how to safely build three kinds of campfires:

- **TEPEE:** Make a pile of tinder and arrange your kindling over it like the poles of a tepee. Keep the tepee shape as you add more wood to the fire, and be careful that the tepee doesn't tip over.
- **CROSS FIRE:** Place a pile of tinder between two parallel pieces of kindling. Once the fire is burning, lay more pieces of kindling across the fire perpendicular to the first pair. As you add larger sticks to the fire, make each new layer perpendicular to the last, building a pyramid shape.
- **LOG CABIN:** Surround your tinder pile with a square of kindling built by laying two sticks parallel on either side of the tinder, then two sticks on top of and perpendicular to the first pair. Build up several levels and end with a "roof" of small kindling across the top. Add larger sticks in pairs to keep the fire's log cabin shape.



## Use This Checklist to Make Sure Your Campfire is Safe.

### DO

- Light a fire only when an adult is present and in charge.
- Keep young children and pets away from the fire.
- Make sure your campfire is a safe distance from your tent or anything that can burn.
- Use rocks to create a fire ring in the center of a large cleared area.
- Use the Drown-Stir-Drown-Feel method to put out your campfire safely.

### DON'T

- X Don't start a campfire when it is windy.
- X Don't leave a fire unattended.
- X Don't leave your fire without first putting it completely out.
- X Don't use flammable liquids to start a campfire.
- X Don't extinguish a campfire with just dirt or sand — add H<sub>2</sub>O!
- X Don't bury warm/hot coals or ashes in a campfire pit.
- X Don't burn glass, cans, plastics, or garbage in your campfire.
- X Don't play or goof around near a campfire.



Find out more about  
preventing wildfires at  
[www.SmokeyBear.com](http://www.SmokeyBear.com)



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