Campfire Safety: Cool the Coals

DO

- Build your fire in a designated ring/pit at least 15 feet away (preferably downwind from tent, brush and other flammable objects)
- Keep children at a safe distance with a “circle of safety” at least 3 feet from the fire edge
- Keep the fire small and manageable, with water nearby
- Talk to children about campfire safety
- Completely extinguish the fire and coals by pouring water, stirring, and pouring water again until it is cool. Never bury a fire.

DON’T

- Use an accelerant such as gasoline, kerosene or aerosol sprays to start a fire
- Leave a fire unattended – EVER!
- Throw anything other than wood into the fire
- Build a fire if conditions are dry or if forest fire danger is High
- Assume the fire pit is safe when arriving at a campsite. Coals from previous campers can still be hot!

THE FACTS

- 70% of Campfire burns are caused by embers rather than flames.
- Fire pits retain heat up to 12 hours after being extinguished - hot enough to cause a severe burn.
- Humans cause nine of every ten wildfires. Make sure campfires are permitted in your area.

THE FIX

Should a burn injury occur...

1) STOP, DROP & ROLL if clothing catches fire
2) Cool the burn with COOL (not cold) water
3) Remove all clothing and jewelry from the injured area
4) Cover the area with clean dry sheet or bandages
5) Seek medical attention

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