



CAMPFIRE TIPS

Sequoia National Forest

Campfire Permits

You may want a campfire for cooking, enjoying its warmth, and roasting marshmallows.

For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbeques used outside a campground or recreational vehicle and some developed campgrounds, you need a campfire permit.

The permit is free, valid for a full year from January 1 to December 31, and may be obtained in person from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or CAL FIRE offices or for free online. Your responsibilities for building and putting out your fire safely are explained on the campfire permit. 36 CFR 261.52(k) PRC 4433.

Be aware that as fire danger becomes greater, campfires may be prohibited. Please check to find out if there are fire restrictions in the area where you intend to camp.

You are welcome to gather dead and down wood to use for your campfire, but not to take home unless you obtain a fuelwood permit.

How to Prepare and Put out a Campfire

PREPARE YOUR SITE – Find a level spot away from overhanging branches, brush, dry grass, logs, pine needles, and heavy duff. Keep away from the base of a hill because escaped fires travel uphill fast. Do not build a fire on a windy day.

With a shovel, clear a circle 5 feet wide down to **bare dirt**. Hollow out a fire pit 6 inches deep and 2 feet across at the center of the cleared circle. Pile the dirt around the fire. **DO NOT** line it with rocks! They can explode when hot! The fire should be built no larger than necessary.

Use existing fire rings where available to reduce the number of disturbed areas and damage to soil cover and vegetation.

BEWARE OF THE DUFF – Duff is the layer of decomposing wood material that lies on the forest floor between pine needles and bare dirt. Many times it may look like dirt, but it isn't. Duff burns – dirt doesn't. It allows even the smallest ember to smolder for days, most times underground and unnoticed, until enough heat is built up to produce flames. Don't let the duff fool you!

Hume Lake Ranger District
35860 East Kings Canyon
Road
Dunlap, CA 93621
[559-338-2251](tel:559-338-2251)

Kern River Ranger District
P.O. Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
[760-376-3781](tel:760-376-3781)

**Western Divide Ranger
District**
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
[559-539-2607](tel:559-539-2607)

Forest Supervisor's Office
1839 S. Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)



ATTEND YOUR FIRE – Never leave your campfire unattended, even for a few minutes or if you take a nap. Never leave children or young adults alone in attendance of a fire!

DROWN THE FIRE – Drown your campfire ½ hour before you break camp. Fill your bucket with water and pour it on the campfire while completely stirring and wetting all the ashes. Use your shovel to separate the burning pieces of wood in the fire pit.

Stir and mix water with the ashes until the fire is out. If you sense **any** heat with the back of your hand, continue to drown and stir! Don't try to bury the fire under dirt. It can smolder for hours and then escape.

DROWN BRIQUETTES – Charcoal briquettes should be extinguished by dumping into a pail of water, mixing thoroughly, and then placing into the fire pit.

FEEL THE ASHES – Feel the ashes to be sure the fire is out. Before you leave the campsite, check the area within 50 feet of the fire for sparks or embers that may have escaped.

IT CAN COST YOU – You will be held liable for the cost of suppression and damages caused by any wildfire that starts through negligence on your part.

COME PREPARED – Obtain your campfire permit (free of charge) from any Forest Service office or online, bring your shovel, and a pail for water.

Free California Campfire Permits are available online at

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org>

or visit your local Sequoia National Forest District Office.



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