

Living Safely

with disabilities and special health needs

Campfire Safety



Children's
Specialized Hospital®

An RWJBarnabas Health facility



Before setting up to light a campfire, I make sure I ask if it is allowed. I need to call the local fire department or ask at the campground to be sure.

A campfire should only be set up by someone who knows exactly how to do it and has set a campfire before. If I do not know how, I should not set a campfire. Instead, I allow someone who is an expert to teach me.



If a campfire is allowed, I make sure it is set up more than 25 feet away from anything that can burn. This includes buildings, furniture, and other objects. This also includes dry leaves, sticks, overhanging low branches, and shrubs.



I should avoid lighting a campfire on a windy or dry day. On days that are dry or windy, a fire can spread and burn other things. A fire can grow larger and spread out of control.



Before lighting the campfire, I make sure children and pets keep a safe distance away from the fire at all times.



I only light a campfire with someone else who is there to help.

If I am afraid of fire or unsure how to light a campfire, I ask someone who I trust to help.

I always have a water hose or bucket of water nearby. I can also have a shovel and dirt or sand nearby. These will be used to put out the fire.



To start a campfire, I only use matches or a lighter. I never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids to start a campfire or to keep a campfire lit.

I keep a campfire small so it is easier to control.



I watch the campfire at all times.

A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a big and damaging fire.



If I am roasting marshmallows, I am careful when lifting the marshmallow away from the fire. I never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball and injure someone.

A heated metal skewer can cause burns. Using sticks can be a safe alternative. I need to be careful the stick does not catch on fire.



I need to make sure to put it completely out before leaving the site.



If my clothes catch fire, I need to stop, drop, and roll:

First I stop.

Then I drop to the ground and cover my face with my hands.

Then I roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

For more Living Safely resources, visit www.rwjbh.org/cshlivingsafely

We value the expertise of our partners in safety who have demonstrated their commitment to inclusive healthy communities.

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