

Bonfire — What it is and how to be safe

A bonfire is a big outdoor fire. People build them to be warm, tell stories, sing songs, and roast marshmallows. Fire is helpful but it can also hurt, so we must be very careful.

Before the bonfire

- Always have a grown-up with you. Never be near a bonfire alone.
- Make sure the bonfire is in a safe place with no trees, bushes, or houses too close.
- Only wood or sticks should go in the fire. Do not put plastic, cans, or toys in the fire.
- Wear close-fitting clothes (no long loose sleeves) and shoes. Long skirts or scarves can catch fire.

During the bonfire

- Stand back. Keep a safe space between you and the fire.
- Hold marshmallows or hot dogs on a long stick so you do not put your hand near the flames.
- Do not run or push near the fire. Walk slowly and carefully around it.
- If your clothes catch fire, remember: Stop, Drop, and Roll. Tell an adult right away.
- Always listen to the grown-ups. If an adult says to move back, move back right away.

How adults put the fire out

- Adults have water, sand, or a shovel to put out the fire. They pour water and stir the ashes so everything gets cool.
- Never touch ashes — they can be hot even after the flames are gone. Adults check that everything is cold before leaving.

What to do if something goes wrong

- If someone gets burned, tell an adult immediately.
- If the fire gets big and the adults cannot stop it, an adult should call the emergency number (like 911).

Bonfires can be fun when everyone is careful. Remember: always stay with a grown-up, keep your distance, and never put bad things in the fire. That way you can enjoy the warm light and yummy marshmallows safely!