

# FOREST FUN AND FIRE SAFETY

## for those who camp in Tonto Rim Country



Forests are vitally important to each of us! Not only are they places of beauty and relaxation, but trees also provide us with raw materials, medicine, food, and fuel. In addition, forest trees and plants also keep the temperature on earth bearable and provide us with enough oxygen to breathe!

One of the greatest threats to forests is fire. It doesn't take much to start a forest fire. Lightning can easily ignite dry leaves and dead branches. The careless toss of a smoldering cigarette butt or match or a glowing ember or sparks from an abandoned campfire can quickly turn a forest into a raging inferno.

If you see any sign of a fire, report it immediately to an adult or call 911!

**OKAY!** Are you ready to roast marshmallows, cook your camp meal, or tell tall tales around the campfire? Proper campfire building and match safety are two major ways you can help prevent wildfires. Since 1944, Smokey Bear's friends have avoided playing with matches or leaving campfires unattended. If you see a younger child playing with matches, give them to an adult.





Smokey knows that a safe flame length for a campfire in Rim Country is 20 inches or less. A small campfire invites socializing and good times as you huddle close with family and friends.



### PROPERLY BUILDING AND EXTINGUISHING A CAMPFIRE

Clear a five-foot area around the fire ring down to the mineral soil, free from pine needles, leaves, twigs, and any debris that could burn.

- Use only established fire rings provided in your campsite. If camping where fire rings are not available, dig a pit away from overhanging branches. Circle the pit with rocks.
- Stack firewood upwind and away from the fire.
- **ALWAYS** keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby. 
- After lighting, **DO NOT** discard your match until you're sure it's cool to your touch.
- Large bonfires are dangerous! Add one piece of wood to your fire at a time. 
- **NEVER** abandon or leave a campfire for even a moment.



**Put your campfire out with three easy steps: 1. Drown your campfire with water. 2. Stir your campfire with a shovel. 3. Repeat until your campfire is cold to the touch. DO NOT** bury your campfire with dirt, sand, or gravel. The buried fuel may smolder and burn undetected for a long time and break free later to cause a fire.

- Nationally, about 90 percent of wildfires are caused by people. Thus, we all have a part in preventing them. **YOU** can influence others to use more care with fires. Remember, a little extra care takes only a few minutes of your time. And it could prevent a destructive wildfire from turning your favorite recreation area and place of natural beauty into something that looks like a charred lunar landscape.



Feeding full-length logs into your campfire is not fire-wise and is never allowed. Your firewood should always fit within the safety of your fire ring.

