



FUN FACT #1: Campfire Safety / Fire Triangle

Target age group

- Grades 3 – 8

Materials needed

- “Port-a-fire” campfire simulator or real campfire / fire ring / handtools / water and fire triangle sign
- Approximate time needed: 15 – 30 minutes

Question

1. “Do you and your parents enjoy a campfire, if so where and when?” (Students should be sitting around the campfire)
2. “What do you do when it’s time to leave the campfire?” This is followed by a step by step demonstration of how to put out a campfire:
 - a. water is poured over fire
 - b. the coals are stirred with a shovel
 - c. the process is repeated several times



Activity

- Explain the fire triangle
- Emphasize that if any part of the triangle is eliminated, the fire will go out.
- Have a fire triangle poster to use as a visual aid.
- If a propane campfire is used, eliminate the “fuel” for the fire by turning off the valve to the propane tank.
- This is also a good opportunity to explain what “forest fuels” are and how a wildland firefighter might remove forest fuels to help stop the spread of fire (i.e., indirect fireline).



- The students are asked what part of the fire triangle was eliminated by pouring water on the campfire. They may be surprised to learn that the water both reduced oxygen and cooled the fuels, thus reducing heat.
- If appropriate, these concepts can also be expanded to explain how firelines are created and how the concept of defensible space is used to protect homes from wildfire.