

Fire Pit Safety Checklist

Unintentional actions are the leading cause of outside fires. For an event using a Fire Pit, take the time to create a safety plan. Holmes Murphy Fraternal Practice offers these suggestions based on expert advice.

- Review all local city, county or university policies related to fire pits and make sure the event will be up to code.
- Consider hosting the event substance free or have event monitors to monitor the fire pit.
- Ideally, a fire pit should be at least 10 feet away from any structures — 20 feet is even better.
- A gas-fueled fire pit (propane or natural gas) is usually considered the best choice
- Avoid using soft woods like pine or cedar because they can pop and throw sparks.
- Wet the grass around your fire pit before you light a fire.
- Check wind direction before lighting a fire.
- Don't use flammable fluids (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.) to light or relight fires.
- Don't wear flammable clothing (like nylon) or any loose-fitting clothing.
- Keep attendees at least three feet away from the fire.
- Don't burn trash, cardboard, paper, plastic, or other items in your fire pit.
- Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can cause burns.
- Never leave the fire unattended.
- Keep a [fire extinguisher](#), garden hose or bucket of water nearby.
- Have a plan to extinguish your fire. For wood burning fires, use your hose to wet down the embers and logs slowly in a zig-zag spray pattern. Take a rake or shovel and overturn everything, letting the water soak in while you stir things around. Continue doing this until you've thoroughly saturated everything in the fire pit.

Sources:

<https://www.csia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Fire-Pit-Safety-Tips-Checklist-Cheat-Sheet-CSIA.pdf>

[Outdoor Fire Safety \(fema.gov\)](#)

[CampingFireSafety.ashx \(nfpa.org\)](#)

[Fire Pit Safety Tips & FAQs - US - Chimney Safety Institute of America \(csia.org\)](#)

[Wood and Gas Fire Pit and Fireplace Safety | HGTV](#)

[Campfire Safety | Smokey Bear](#)