

## Cooking Over a Wood Fire in a Fire Pit

It's fun to toast marshmallows over an open fire. It's a little more difficult to cook over an open fire. First of all, you have to be careful that you don't get burned. Second, if you're cooking in a pan, you have to find a way to hold the pan over the fire.

The best way to learn how to cook over an open fire is to start out by making a fire inside a "fire pit." A fire pit is a large metal container that raises the fire up off the ground so it is easier to cook on. A fire pit also keeps the fire safely contained inside its metal walls.

## Safety with Fires in Fire Pits

Before you start a fire, make sure you have plenty of water to put the fire out, if you need to. Make sure you have an adult near by who can help you out if you need it.

No fooling around or horseplay near an open fire—you don't want to get burned.

When it's time to put out a fire, first use a long stick to spread out the wood that's burning. Then use a cup to sprinkle water on the wood that is burning, or glowing with heat. Keep turning the fire with a long stick, and sprinkling water on it, until you can't feel any heat anywhere in the fire pit.

## How To Start a Fire in a Fire Pit



you're first learning to build a fire, you'll want an adult who knows about fires. It takes time to learn how to build a fire, so you'll want someone who can help you out when you need help.

Find a good-size chunk of wood, like the one you see at right in the photo above. Crumple up a piece of newspaper into a long thin roll and lay it against the chunk of wood, as shown above.

Lay a dozen or show thin, dry twigs over the newspaper, so that they rest on the chunk of wood. Then lay a dozen pieces of thin kindling wood over the twigs.



Now lay two or three larger pieces of wood over the twigs and kindling wood. Put these pieces of wood close together, but leave some gaps where air and flames can get through.

Now use a match to light the newspaper on fire at one end. Take a match out of the match box. Close the match box. Strike the match against the side of the box, *AWAY* from you. If you don't want to light the match yourself, ask the adult who is helping you to do it for you. Or if you're not sure how to light a match, ask the adult who is helping you to show you how.

Remember that flames go *UP*. So hold the match *UNDER* the newspaper.



When you hold the lighted match under the newspaper, you'll see the newspaper begins to burn.

Pretty soon small flames rise up as the twigs and thin kindling wood burns, as in the photo above.

When the twigs and thin kindling are burning well, they light the larger pieces of wood on fire. Once that happens, the fire will be burning merrily away.

If you've done everything right, you'll need only one match to light the fire. But lots of times the flames die out, and you'll have to start all over again. Keep practicing until you can always light a "one match fire."

A really good outdoors-person can light a one match fire in the rain with damp wood. Can you get that good?