

Fire

Outdoors With Ed

www.ednutter.ws/outdoors

Fire Extinguisher

Type	Marking	Material
A	Green triangle	Wood, paper, some plastic
B	Red square	Combustible liquid – gasoline, oil, some gases like acetylene and butane
C	Blue circle	Electrical equipment
D	Yellow star	Combustible metals like magnesium and sodium
E		Radioactive
K	Black hexagon	Kitchen fire with cooking oils or fats

It is supposed to be the “Combustion Triangle” not the “Combustion Square”. Three things are needed for a fire, oxygen, heat, and fuel. If you take one of those away, you kill the fire. Some people, who seem to like living dangerously, add a fourth element to the mix. This element is known as an accelerant; usually gasoline, diesel, oil, butane, propane, depending on how much excitement they like.

Tinder can be composed of many things.

- lint covered with vaseline
- pine needles

- newspaper dipped in wax
- tea light
- jute twine
- yellow birch
- river birch
- red cedar
- cattail seed
- milkweed pods

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33_5iWjEv5g

The next step up in the fuel is kindling.

- pencil size

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5mwaNocf8Y>

Finally are the larger items known as fuel.

- logs

NOTE: If you are burning old letters and mail, don't pile everything tightly in the fire, unless you have a long time to watch it burn, or don't want everything to fully burn up.

Many possible shapes

- teepee
- star
- pyramid

<http://momgoescamping.com/make-fire-woods/>

<https://www.backpacker.com/survival/the-5-types-of-campfire-for-backpackers>

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/three-essential-campfires-snack-fire-cooking-fire-and-comfort-fire/>

Fire Starters

Lighter



Butane (sealed Bic type)

- keep warm in cold weather
- the style on the right is more cumbersome to carry



Zippo-type

- keep fluid filled
- carry extra wicks and flint
- still produces spark when empty
- extra fluid can be carried in the canister on the left
- Far right is a similar lighter, but has a screw on cap with an o-ring seal

Matches

Strike anywhere

Storm

- burn in wind and rain

Strike on box

- must carry striker pad

Book

- dip in Thompson's Water Seal and let dry (McCann)
- better than nothing
- fragile



Magnesium Bar

- ignites when wet

- scrape off small pieces with edge of striker or back of knife blade
- burns hot and quick

Fresnel Lens (McCann)

- sun must be out and bright
- low humidity



Ferro Rod (McCann)

- produces sparks
- sparks don't continue to burn, must have tinder
- hold striker in place and pull rod back

Steel wool and 9V battery (McCann)

- 0000 steel wool
- minimum of 3V

Bow fire (McCann)

Socket

- used to hold drill in place while spinning

Bow

- poplar, tamarack, basswood, yucca, balsam fir, red cedar, white cedar, cypress, cottonwood, elm, linden, willow

Drill

- straight, well seasoned
- 1/4" to 3/4" diameter
- 12" to 15" long

Fire board

- long enough to hold underfoot
- cut notch for sparks

String

- shoelace or rawhide

Survival Lilly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EowWiloNZwk&t=38s>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu4u_OqVgVM&t=414s

BlackScoutSurvival: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mi3tqw_wYmq

Making a fire in wet weather

Emelie's Outdoor Adventures:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeE0afZTcok&t=7s>

CommonSenseOutdoors:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTu8PbkEf9M>

Girl in the Woods: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuGRyknIVUY>

McCann, John D. *Stay Alive!: Survival Skills You Need*. Krause Publications, 2011.