



# SAFETY IN OPEN FIRE COOKING

With a little care and attention, open fire cooking is fun and enjoyable. Lighting a fire out of doors and cooking something on it is one of the things Cub Scouts enjoy doing most.

The following safety rules must be observed before cooking on an open fire.

## Safety Tips

- o Choose a safe spot which should be at least three (3) meters away from trees and bushes and at least four (4) meters away from the tent – to avoid accidents.
- o Build your fire downwind of your tent in an appropriate fire pit area – to avoid burning ashes from the fire from damaging the tents. The fire pit is to keep the fire from spreading out (and is easier to clean up, too).
- o Keep your fire small and low.
- o Only three persons at a time must be near the fire.
- o Remove scarves, so they don't catch fire. Remove rain jackets with flammable material.
- o DO NOT use rocks which are wet or damp as they may crack or explode when heated.
- o If by accident someone catches fire, always remember STOP DROP AND ROLL.  
(see Silver's Dealing with emergencies)
- o NEVER use methylated spirit, paraffin or petrol to start a fire  
(These were not listed in the Cub Book for safety reasons.) Mention the topic of paraffin and petrol and how dangerous they are.

## Suggestion:

- o The below activity can be used to see if the Cubs can really identify risky behaviour around an open fire.



# ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



**Activity:** Cookout



**Objective:** Test if Cubs can identify risky behaviour near a fire.



**Time:** 90 minutes



**Outline:** Safety inspectors: The Pack is divided into groups (eg Sixes), with each Six having at least one Bronze Arrow Cub. Each Six will build a fire of its own. The Bronze Cubs of each Six is assigned another Six to inspect. The Cub should correct other Cubs in case of any unsafe behaviour. If a Cub is corrected three times, s/he is sent to a penalty area away from the fires for a short time.

At the end of the cookout, the Six with the least amount of corrections is the winner. The Leaders need to make sure that the Inspectors are not correcting safe behaviour, and they don't overlook unsafe behaviour.



**Equipment:** Wood, Matches, Water, Safety vests, Clipboards, Pens/Pencils, First Aid Kit. If you are going to cook something you would also need: Grid, Food and Utensils.



**Place:** Outdoors



**Group Size:** Pack



**3rd Parties:** N/A






BRONZE ARROW



# ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



## During the Activity:

-  **SOCIAL**  
– Discuss the safety tips as a group, and encourage Cubs to speak in front of their peers. Cubs will need to remind and maybe even correct older Cubs.
-  **PHYSICAL**  
– The Cubs who are not inspecting need to actually gather the need equipment example wood, rocks, etc and build the fire. Get the cubs to act out the safety tips. For example have them point out areas which would be safe for a fire or otherwise.
-  **INTELLECTUAL**  
– The Cubs must know the safety rules to be able to identify risky behaviour.
-  **EMOTIONAL**  
– Following the activity explore the feelings that were prompted. For example: Was there a lot of risky behaviour the inspectors noted? How did the inspectors feel when they were correcting the other cubs? How did the cubs that were being corrected feel? What can be improved for next time?
-  **SPIRITUAL**  
– Think about how the fire, even if dangerous, can be very helpful – like any other tool.

BRONZE ARROW

## After the Activity:

Put the rocks where they were and stop any burning fire. Whenever the Pack or the Group has an open fire cooking, ask the cubs to abide by the safety tips and to remind others.

