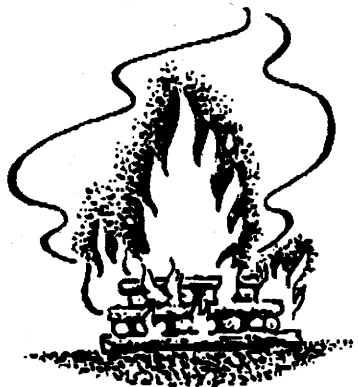


Quickie Fires



THERE comes a time in every camper's life when he needs a fire in a hurry. You may need a roaring fire to dry by after a dunking in an icy stream. Or you may have to rustle up a meal to leave camp on time.

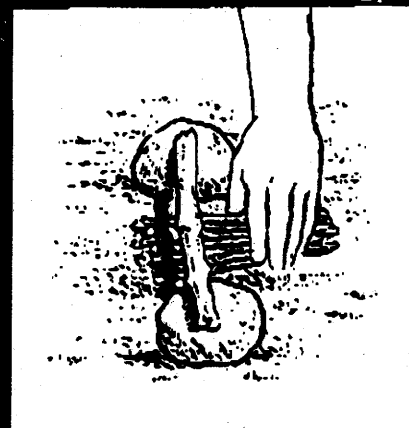
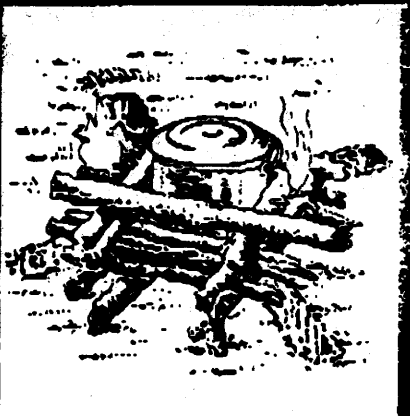
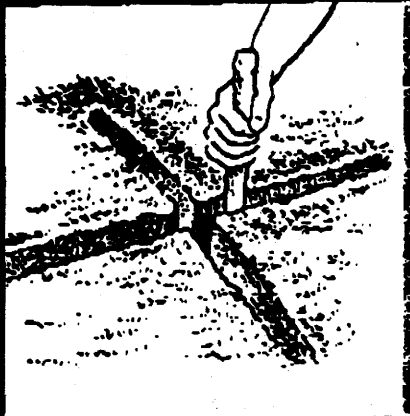
To build such a quick fire you must know where to find dry firewood that will ignite quickly. You also need to know how to lay a fire so that the heavier fuel doesn't fall and smother the flames when the tinder burns out.

Use either one of these two lays for a quick fire; the cross-ditch fire lay shown to the left or the fire-stick fire lay to the right.

For the *cross-ditch fire*, first scrape a three-inch-deep cross in the ground. This shallow ditch lets air sweep in under the fire and provides a good draft. Place a large wad of tinder in the middle of the cross ditch. Now lay several foundation sticks diagonally over the cross. Build up on those, in crisscross fashion, enough wood for a speedy bed of coals for broiling (left center).

For rapid boiling, place a layer of foundation sticks diagonally over the cross ditch and place your pot on them. Then, in log-cabin style, build up fuel around the pot. When completely laid, light the tinder (left bottom).

For the *fire-stick fire*, place two small rocks on the ground, about ten inches apart (right top). If you can't find rocks, use two thick sticks. Now lay a "fire stick" across the two rocks. Push a large handful of tinder in under the fire stick (right center). Then lean thin kindling against the downwind side of the "fire stick." Build up the fire lay with thicker and thicker pieces of fuel wood, as much as is needed for your cooking. Now light your tinder close to the ground. ■



Fire-Making Materials— Firewoods Instruction Sheet

1. FIRE STARTERS	2. TINDER	3. KINDLING	4. FUEL
<p>MATCHES Kitchen size are best. Waterproof with paraffin, nail polish, or shellac cut 50-50 with alcohol.</p> <p>FLINT AND STEEL Any stone containing quartz is good. For steel, use back of knife blade or file with burr ground off.</p> <p>FIRE BY FRICTION Cottonwood, cedar, elm, or basswood for board and spindle.</p> <p>BURNING GLASS Magnifying glass or lens of binoculars or camera.</p>	<p>GRASS Fine, dry—up off the ground.</p> <p>WEED TOPS Goldenrod, aster, etc.</p> <p>DRY LEAVES Still on the tree.</p> <p>FINE TWIGS “Squaw wood” from standing trees.</p> <p>BARK Cedar or birch or palmetto—picked from dead standing trees with your fingernails.</p> <p>BIRD NESTS From last season</p> <p>MOUSE NESTS Any season</p> <p>“FAT” PINE Full of pitch</p> <p>FINE SHAVINGS of dry wood</p> <p>PAPER</p> <p>CANDLE</p> <p>PARAFFIN AND PAPER OR STRING</p> <p>COMMERCIAL STARTERS Sterno Meta tablets Firelares</p>	<p>TWIGS Dead, dry “squaw wood” from standing trees.</p> <p>WEED STEMS Medium and heavy stems.</p> <p>SPLIT WOOD Always good as long as it is: 1) Dry 2) Split fine enough 3) More than you think you need.</p> <div data-bbox="834 1685 1148 1968" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>“SQUAW WOOD” The fine twigs and branches that a squaw can get from a standing tree without using any tool other than her hands.</p> </div>	<p>WOOD Any size. Better split it if your log is more than 3 inches in diameter.</p> <p>CHARCOAL In “natural” sticks or pressed briquets.</p> <p>COAL Soft or hard</p> <div data-bbox="1181 1685 1495 1968" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>PETROLEUM PRODUCTS Are used only if you’re very desperate or very dumb. Gasoline— NEVER!</p> </div>