

# Don't Burn Trash in Your Campfire!

**Tempted to toss your trash into the campfire? Did you know...**

-  Trash and debris burning causes 40% of all forest fires.
-  Burning foil, plastic, and Styrofoam releases acidic gases, heavy metals, particulate, and toxic chemicals like dioxins into the environment.
-  Exposure to toxins released by burning may cause developmental problems in children and can increase your risk of developing cancer.
-  Ashes from burning trash contaminate soil and groundwater.
-  Partly burned trash may be scattered by wind and wildlife causing a serious litter problem.

## **Instead of burning your trash ...**

- ✓ Pack food and supplies in reusable containers.
- ✓ Use garbage cans or dumpsters when available.
- ✓ Pack in what you need, pack out the waste.
- ✓ Recycle cans, plastic bottles, paper, and glass.
- ✓ Keep campfires small and burn only wood. Use natural kindling materials.
- ✓ Never burn treated wood. The smoke and ash can be extremely toxic.

**Keep our children, forests, and wildlife free from contamination.**

## **DON'T BURN TRASH!**



For more information contact the Michigan  
Department of Environmental Quality  
(800) 662-9278 [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)

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