



Fire

Fire is an essential part of survival – it sits in with both **Protection** and **Acquisition** from **PLAN-M** as it affords us protection from the cold, biting insects in the form of smoke, natural predators, it allows us to treat water via boiling, cook our food and also sits with **Location** as we can make a signal fire to assist in rescuers identifying our location for help/rescue.

Remember the fire triangle – Oxygen, Heat and Fuel – these are all needed for fire to sustain. If one is taken away, fire will not start or continue to burn.

Tinder:

Used to light your fire, can be Natural or Man Made.

Natural:

In the form of a tinder bundle – long grasses, straw etc balled up and kneaded to produce a fibrous bundle that will take a spark. Bark scrapings or shavings, fat wood shavings, birch bark scraped to give surface that will take a spark then add small strips of birch bark to hold the flame or split wood feather stick.

Man Made:

Shavings from a hexamine block or wet fuel tablet, tampon, cotton wool, rubber from inner tube, paper etc...



Wood Sizes:

When gathering your firewood supplies, remember to gather wood in these 4 sizes:

TIP: You can often get all 4 sizes that you require from one piece of wood.

Pencil lead Tinder / Kindling

Pencil: Kindling / Fuel

Thumb: Fuel

Wrist and bigger: Long term Fuel

Consider using a brace when building your fire to assist in it's air flow – such as large rock or a nice sized log. If the ground is damp, keep all your fire prep off of the ground and your tinder should be placed and ignited on a base to help keep it dry – a piece of bark is ideal.

Whatever you feel is enough fire material – **gather three times as much!** It is never enough, and you need to allow for things to not go according to plan! Remember Mother Nature has a say in all things, stay patient and do not give up.