

LONGWOOD LAKE CABIN OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FIRE SAFETY by Mike Klein

The Lake is calling! So grab your marshmallows and hit the fire pit! Your outdoor fire can do way more than cook and entertain friends, but whatever activity you are enjoying, remember cabin fire safety.

It provides warmth, ambience and sets the scene for an awesome lake experience. Whether you have a fire pit, outdoor fireplace or chiminea, it is a great feeling sitting out by the fire, or inside your toasty cabin during the dead of winter or on a cool spring night.

Please remember these cabins are very old and the timber is very dry. Here are a few things to keep in mind while you're relaxing by the fire. These tips are just a tool for you to enjoy a safe, fun time while enjoying a campfire at the lake:

- Keep your fire at least 10 to 20 feet away from any structure, such as your cabin, or any other combustible surface.
- Clear all flammable materials (dry logs, debris, needles, leaves, etc.) away before starting the fire.
- Don't place fire pits on wooden decks. Position on non-flammable surfaces.
- Don't build a fire under a building overhang or trees.
- Avoid windy conditions that can blow embers.
- Always supervise children and pets in the vicinity of the fire.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Use dry and seasoned wood. Wet or green wood makes more smoke. Softwoods like pine and birch make more crackles and sparks (potentially dangerous) than hardwoods like oak or hickory. Don't burn pressure-treated wood which may contain toxins.
- Never use lighter fluid, gasoline or other accelerants.
- Position chairs so people can rise and move about without tumbling into the fire.
- Keep your fire manageable. There's no need for a blazing bonfire. The bigger the fire, the greater the risk for danger.
- Keep a bucket of water, sand, or Fire Extinguisher nearby in case your fire gets out of hand. A shower-type spray douses a flare up, while a direct stream of water can spread sparks. Having the appropriately rated fire extinguisher is an additional safety precaution.
- If a spark ignites clothing remember to Stop, Drop and Roll!
- Always have a shovel nearby to extinguish any escaped flames and to put out the fire itself.
- Be sure to completely extinguish your fire before retiring for the night. Smokey the Bear says, "If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave."
- Dispose of the ashes in a metal can that is used solely for ash storage. Do not discard hot ashes in a compost pile, paper bag, cardboard box or anything that is combustible. Ashes can still be hot enough to cause a fire even after 2 or 3 days.
- Fireworks, (now some are legal in NJ) should be pointed away from people, dry leaves, compost piles, and should be used properly and with adult supervision. Used fireworks should be placed in a bucket of water to ensure extinguishment. If using aeriels or rockets please point them over the lake, not other people's cabins or property....

ENJOY THE LAKE LIFE AND KEEP IT FUN AND SAFE FOR EVERYONE

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