



## Extreme Fire-Starting

with Kevin Estela from [www.KevinEstela.com](http://www.KevinEstela.com)

### Fire Is Life

Fire allows you to make water safe, cook food, light your way, and fight off hypothermia. Anyone can start a fire in ideal conditions, but extreme conditions can get you killed. Get out there and practice your fire-building!

### How NOT To Start A Fire

The biggest mistakes include...

- Lack of patience for building a fire (going too big too soon)
- Failure to collect enough resources to keep a fire going
- Building a fire they're not prepared to put out

### Fire-Starting Kit Inventory

Your fire-starting kit should contain...

- A flame-based fire-starter (such as a Bic lighter with bike inner tube/duct tape)
- A small ferro rod
- Some kind of tinder
- Other kit tips include...
  - A Fresnel lens
  - Waterproof shells are good for extreme conditions.
  - Electrical tape on a Zippo can help keep fuel from evaporating.
  - Fire Starter Specialists make "tinder plugs" that look like "Cheetos"
  - A mini-bellows can be very handy

### How To Build And "Prep" A Fire

What's the best "structure" for building a fire fast?

- Be aware of your location. Consider your environment.
- Be aware of what's around you. Tailor your fire to the resources available.
- Don't collect enough for one fire; collect additional resources just in case.
- One of the easiest layouts is the corner of a log cabin. Create a platform and lay varying fuel sizes at 90 degree angles. The point of the corner faces the direction the wind is blowing.
- Have good tools like saws and hatchets, which will help you process wood.

### When Mother Nature's Against You

Tips for building a fire when conditions are bad:

- Persevere; NEVER give up.
- Create a shield if possible with your body or clothes; use the buddy system if possible.
- Think outside the box.

### Starting A Covert Fire

Sometimes you don't want people to find you.

- Dakota fire pit (a chimney in the dirt).
- Make a fire in a 55 gallon drum; poke holes in it for limited light and air.
- Toilet paper soaked in rubbing alcohol in a paint can acts like a candle and is reusable.
- Dig an "H" in the ground and close the flaps when you're done to cover your tracks.
- A tree helps conceal a fire if the fire isn't too large.
- Building a fire under a tree helps to dissipate smoke through the leaves. The materials you use will make a difference.

*Prepare. Train. Survive.*