



# RIGINS

News from fire-pi, your energetic, efficient, effective forensic fire investigation team | JULY 2020

Sitting outdoors by a popping, crackling open fire has a Neolithic allure.



*Lorne in his more.... storied years.*

Open fires bring family and friends together. Brats and hot dogs are roasted. The ingredients for s'mores are cooked to sticky perfection. Lots of great stories and jokes are shared from generation to generation.

Unfortunately, open fire mishaps happen when we least expect them and often cause injuries. With a few safety tips, you can prevent these accidents.

## **SAFETY AROUND THE FIRE**

- Before setting up an open fire, check with your local fire department to ensure it's permitted.
- If permitted, they need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn.
- Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Avoid burning on windy, dry days, when it's easier for open burning to spread out of control.
- Closely supervise children while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire.
- Always attend to an open fire. An open fire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a damaging fire.
- Keep an open fire small, which is easier to control.
- No matter how tempting, never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- Always have a hose, bucket of water, shovel and dirt or sand nearby to put out the fire. Extinguish it completely before leaving the site.
- If your clothes catch fire, "stop, drop, and roll." Stop, drop to the ground, covering your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

# August Burn to Learn postponed

We regret that our previously announced August 19 Burn to Learn is being postponed til spring 2021, due to COVID19. More information is forthcoming.

Meantime, Fire-pi continues to offer presentations on the following topics, at your office or virtually, based on your preference:

- What to Look for in a Structure Fire
- Careful Where You Flick that Cigarette Butt: Dirt Burns
- Scene Safety
- Dance of the Publics and the Privates: Where One Ends and the Other Begins
- Claims from Forensic Fire Investigation to Litigation
- Successful Subrogation
- What to Look for in Vehicle Fires

Contact Dawn (Brunner) Fish, Fire-pi Operations, dawn@fire-pi.com, if you would like to arrange for a presentation on any of the above topics. CEs have been applied for.



Origin • Cause • Subrogation • Liability

**Your fire-pi Team**  
Effective, Efficient, Energetic

**Minnesota-based  
Veteran-owned**

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Fire-pi is your Minnesota-based, veteran-owned Certified Fire Investigator. We are on scene within 72 hours of your call, ensuring that your evidence is preserved.

It's summer and flower pots abound. Smokers are fond of standing outside building and home entrances, then extinguishing cigarettes in the flower pots that adorn those entrances.

Resist the urge to do so! This is a photo of what happened when a smoker extinguished a cigarette in a flower pot near the door to this home. That is one expensive smoke break. This homeowner may be out of their home for months or a year while construction is completed.

Instead, crush that butt out with your shoe on the concrete or asphalt nearby and have a spot nearby where you can hit it with a hose.

