



Fieldcraft Equipment

The Basic Fire Kit

Being Prepared to start a fire under any circumstances is essential to survival, and can often be the single most important factor in making it back alive.

In your outdoor kit, you should always have two levels of fire kit - a large fire kit that has at least three methods of starting a fire, that you carry in your main pack; and a Basic Fire Kit that is carried as part of your *Always Carry Equipment*. The Basic Fire Kit is intended to start one fire - or your *First Fire*.

The *First Fire* is termed that because it will be the first fire that you ignite when in the outdoors, which can be used to produce or replenish resources needed to start additional fires.

The checklist provided here is not intended to be the ultimate end-all fire kit list, but only as a starting point in developing your own multi-tiered fire starting equipment.



- ☐ *charring tin/carrying tin*
the easiest way to charred material and to produce more
- ☐ *char cloth*
a primary source of capturing a spark
- ☐ *cotton rounds*
a secondary source of capturing a spark
- ☐ *hemp twine*
a primary resource to form a tinder bundle



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- ☐ *birch bark*
a resource for taking a spark to flame, useful especially in wet or inclement weather
- ☐ *fat wood*
a resource for capturing a spark and developing flame
- ☐ *ferrocium rod and striker*
a primary ignition source for producing a spark
- ☐ *Fresnel lens*
a method of using sunlight as an ignition source
- ☐ *canvas kit bag*
a carrying bag for all of the components, which can also be used to gather resources in the field

The contents of this kit provides two methods of ignition to start a fire, and begin to develop that spark into a flame. When you are properly prepared with a field prepared lighter as part of your *Always Carry Equipment*, you have three methods of starting a fire, which will increase your chances of establishing a stable and sustainable fire to meet one of your core survival priorities.