

## Camping Safety Tips

Choosing your pitch - choosing where to put up your tent is always about how convenient it is or how good the view is, there are many safety precautions you have to take into consideration.

- You should always put up your tent at least 6 meters apart from each other, due to the fact that if a fire in the next tent or your own tent was to occur, this will prevent fire spreading.
- Putting up your tent on a nice flat surface next to a river may look appealing, if the river were to flood during the night it would be very dangerous.
- Avoid putting up your tent near or under a tall tree because if lightning were to occur, they are attracted to tall trees, so you could be at risk of getting hit.
- Another risk of putting up your tent near a tall tree is that if high winds were to occur, parts of the trees may blow and damage your tent and be dangerous to you.

Fire - It only takes approximately 60 seconds for a tent to be completely engulfed in flames.

- You should ensure that all fabrics and construction materials have approved fire retardants and the correct safety marks.
- Make sure to keep all appliances and those with a naked flame away from the tent walls, as there the most likely source to start a fire.
- Most portable appliances should be avoided due to the fact that they can be easily knocked over in a small and limited space in a tent, or if there are strong winds, appliances and those with a naked flame, may fall over.
- Make sure you turn all appliances off before you leave your tent or go to sleep because they could set something alight while you are not there or asleep.
- Make sure that your tent is always equipped with a fire extinguisher and fire blanket, also you must know your escape route, this may not always be the door, so be prepared to have to cut through the tent. If a fire were to occur getting yourself and others out is the first priority.

Gas -

- Gas can be very dangerous due to the fact that it is highly flammable and can cause an explosion or a fire if the gas were to leak. Care should also be taken to make sure the valves on the gas bottle are working correctly.
- Make sure that all the appliances you are using the gas with are regularly serviced and completely maintained.
- Never try to fix it yourself
- One of the few waste chemicals from gas after it is burnt is carbon monoxide, this is very lethal and poisonous, and with poor ventilation the carbon monoxide could build up and be deadly.
- If you come across the smell of gas, turn all appliances off, open your tent door and do not use any electrical equipment such as mobile phones.

- Always follow the correct manufacturers guidelines when putting up your tent
- When leaving your tent, valuables are very vulnerable, so you should lock them in the car, or carry them with you.
- Pack a first aid kit. - If a member of your group suffers an injury then your kit could prove valuable. Pack antiseptics for cuts and scrapes, tweezers, insect repellent, bug spray, pain killers, and suncream.