



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Wrangell-St. Elias  
National Park & Preserve

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## **Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve News Release**

June 23, 2016 -- For Immediate Release  
James Sullivan (907) 455-0651

### **Campfires must be extinguished before vacating any camp site in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve**

Copper Center, Alaska -- Past and prevailing weather conditions have caused extremely dry conditions in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Recently, park officials have found multiple abandoned campfires that had the potential to escape and ignite a wildfire.

Please be aware that ALL campfires must be extinguished before vacating any camp site in the Park. Campfires and the use of gas grills and barbeques at campsites will be permitted until further notice in the Park.

The National Weather Service has routinely issued red flag warnings for continued hot, dry and windy weather conditions throughout Alaska in May and June. This has contributed to extreme fire conditions that would promote large fire growth very quickly. Following these simple steps can help reduce the threat of a wildfire.

#### **Putting Out a Campfire**

1. Keep plenty of water handy for a quick response if the fire were to escape.
2. Drown the fire with water making sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. If it is too hot to touch then it is too hot to leave.
3. Use a shovel, stir water and dirt into your campfire to make sure everything is wet and cold to the touch. Carefully run the back of your hand near the surface of the fire remains to double check all heat is gone.
4. Wildland fire managers encourage families to keep a safe distance of 4 feet from their campfires by drawing a "circle of safety" and being mindful of child safety around the fire ring.
5. Make sure your campfire is dead out, please don't burn our public lands. We can all make a difference in reducing human-caused fires during this season. One Less Spark Means One Less Wildfire!

For statewide wildfire information, visit: <http://akfireinfo.com/>.

For additional information, contact James Sullivan, Fire Management Officer at (907) 455-0651.  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

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