The Five Things Needed For A Camp Fire

 In school , one is taught three things are needed for a fire: Oxygen, fuel, and heat.

For a Scout, there are FIVE things needed. How do they compare with the three from your science class? Play the “What If” game. **Number one, before anything else:**

1) **The Means To Extinguish The Fire.** Before anything else, how will you put it out? Water, shovel, rake, sand/dirt. Have sufficient means and tools collected. Is it out? Test firebed with the BACK of your hand… Douse, stir and douse again.

2) **A Safe Area.** Remember that 10’ diameter cleared area. Use an established fire pit. If a “new” fire, remember your Leave No Trace guidelines: Fold back the sod, save the sod to cover the burned on bare soil area. Use an above ground fire holder: old wheelbarrow, oil drum, charcoal grill bed, etc.

3) **Safe Atmosphere:** No overhanging branches to catch a spark ?Land owners’ permission?Park Ranger’s permission?Is there a Drought? No Fire Ban? Make it as **SMALL** as necessary, not as **BIG** as you can!

4) **Collect Fuel Before Lighting** : Tinder, kindling, fire wood. It is hard to stop cooking to collect more wood if you run low. Set things up carefully before attempting to light.

5) **The Means To Ignite The Fire:** Be Prepared! Practice in your back yard before you are on the trail. Ceremonial fire? Practice it first before the big night! “No, I thought YOU had the flint and steel!”.