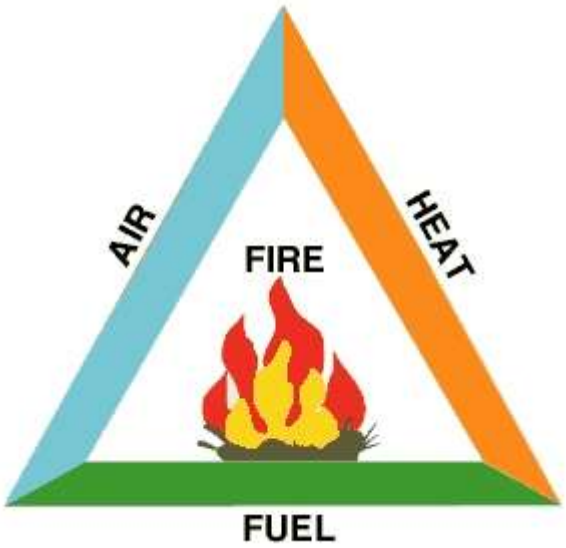
FIRE LIGHTING

To produce a fire you need three elements -



AIR = Oxygen, it's all around us. This is why you put a damp cloth over a saucepan, chip pan or frying pan if it catches alight, to cut off the fires air supply. Water will only take away the heat element. Firemen use foam to cut off the air supply.

HEAT = Friction. A Lit Match or the Sun and a strong lens or Magnifying Glass. Alternatives to produce heat are a battery rubbed along wire wool and a flint and steel to produce a spark which contains the heat element. Extreme ways of producing heat are the back to basics methods of a fire bow, hand drill and fire plough. All these methods produce the heat by rubbing two pieces of wood together. They take great deal of time and skill to work.

FUEL = Combustible Material. Paper, Wood, Petrol, Oil, Spirits etc. In other words anything that will burn is called Fuel. Some fuels are good and burn quickly, some burn very slowly and some are extremely inflammable and very dangerous. Dangerous materials are Petrol, Oil, Chemicals and Gun Powder. Survival fuels are Char Cloth, Tinder Powder, Tinder Sticks, Peat, Animal Poo and Animal Fat.

The Golden rules of Fire Lighting

(1) Always keep a bucket of water nearby. WHY? – In case you burn your hand and to put out small fires.
(2) Never build a fire which is far beyond your needs. I.e. To cook on, you don't need a bonfire.
(3) Wood will not burn unless it is dry and dead.

Order of wood for a Fire

TINDER – Extremely fine powder of wood or a combustible dust.

KINDLING – Extremely thin twigs of dead, dry wood.

TWIGS – Short branch sticks

LARGER TWIGS or BRANCHES – Larger branch sticks

TREE BARK – The outer shell of a tree

LOGS - The trunk of a medium sized tree cut into short lengths