

8 camping safety tips.



You've packed your tent, planned your meals, and gathered the gear. Now, you're ready to camp. The U.S. is home to thousands of [beautiful and diverse parks](#) – just waiting to be enjoyed. As you prepare to explore the outdoors, explore our eight camping safety tips to protect you every step of the journey.

1. **Familiarize yourself with the area.** Know the closest towns and nearest hospitals, and how to get to them, in case of an emergency.
2. **Set up camp.** If you're tenting, get settled on level ground and avoid any rocks or branches that could puncture the material. Keep your tent at least 30 feet [away from the fire](#) – preferably upwind so it won't fill with smoke. And of course, if you're staying on a cliff or mountain, steer clear of any edges.
3. **Store your food safely.** The safest spot to store any food is in a sealed, waterproof container at the edge of your campsite – not in your tent. If food has to be kept cold, be sure to constantly replenish the ice to avoid spoilage.
4. **Avoid insects and animals.** Always wear bug spray and never approach a wild animal (no matter how friendly it may seem).
5. **Seek shelter during storms.** If you hear thunder, seek shelter that's more structurally sound than your tent. Hearing thunder means you're within 10 miles of a storm, so try to find a large building or head back to your car as soon as possible.
6. **Light your fire the right way.** Clear the area of all debris. Make sure

there aren't any overhanging branches. Don't use any flammable liquids to light a fire and build it only as big as you need.

7. **Stay focused on your fire.** Never leave your fire unattended, and don't leave it burning while you're sleeping. Be sure to [completely extinguish](#) the fire with water or sand whenever you're turning in or leaving camp.
8. **Remember to bring the essentials.** Your collection of camping gear isn't complete without a [first-aid kit](#) and a flashlight. Bring enough water, food, and safety supplies for emergencies or unexpected trip extensions.

Now that you know our eight camping safety tips, talk to one of our [local, independent agents](#) to ensure you have the right auto or RV coverage to get you where you're going.