

### **Safe extinguishment of a fire**

If children are involved in the extinguishing process, make sure that a safety talk is delivered first, taking into account age and ability before allowing children to partake. Allocate members of staff to each group and follow a safety set of guidelines of which the children are aware. If needed, extinguish one fire at a time to maintain a safe and controlled environment. All children can be involved at some point: give each child a role to keep them focused on the task and negate distraction.

- Ensure you begin to put the fire/s out with ample time for safety/cooling, in order to make certain that the fire is completely extinguished before exiting the site.
- Wear protective heat-resistant glove and eyewear if required (ash or smoke may blow in your direction if winds pick up).
- Check your surrounding area: remove rubbish, fire lighting resources, kettles, cooking implements, any excess dry wood and items which may catch fire if the embers spark away from the fire pit site.
- Extinguish the fire with water, pouring on slowly and in small amounts to minimise splash back.
- Check surrounding area where heat may travel is also cooled by adding water when and where required.
- Using a stick or tool (trowel/fork), spread the embers carefully to make smaller fires and continue to add water if needed. Spread the ashes over the area once cooled.
- Use more water to cool and saturate the ground, ensuring that no heat remains.
- Using your stick/tool, mix the ground layer of soil to ensure that undergrowth is cool and there is no sign of the fire relighting.
- Restore the area to its original state, scattering any pieces of unused wood or leaves. Cover over the area leaving no signs of fire use.
- Ensure any litter is removed from the site and do a final check before leaving.