Important Life Skills: Firebreathing

Bob Rost
Warning

• Do not attempt this at home

This icon indicates notable safety hazards throughout the lecture
The General Idea

- Spray fuel through a flame source
- Create big flames
The Technique

• Practice with water first
• Put a shot (1.5 oz) of water in your mouth
• Keep corners of mouth firm
• Allow lips to buzz while forcing water out at high speed
• Create large misty spray
The Fuel

- **Kerosene**
  Used by professionals, but you don’t want to swallow this.

- **151 proof Rum**
  Good for college parties. Can be swallowed if necessary.
Flame Source

- **Tiki torch**
  Works well. Hold in hand, or squat down.

- **Match**
  Works, but your hand will likely catch on fire.

⚠️ **Cigarette Lighter - NO!**
Exploding fuel containers in your hand are not good
Location

- Open area. Outside.
- No low hanging trees. Flame goes up!
- Out of view of neighbors (cops are bad)
- Back yards often work well.
- Have a spotter standing BEHIND you.
Breathing Fire

- Remember, we’re breathing OUT, not in
- Blow UPWARD, not downward
- Never into the wind, never towards people
- If anything goes wrong, immediately stop and duck (flame goes up, you go down)
Breathing Fire

- Have drinkable water nearby. 151 tastes like burning, and you may need to put out fires.
- Have a spotter, in case something goes wrong.

⚠️ Stay alert. Flame could blow back and burn you if you’re not careful.

- Inhale through nose, spray fuel through flame source.
Breathing Fire

The Inhale
At Parties

- **In the back yard**
  Much safer than indoors
  Pay attention to your surroundings

- **Around crowds**
  Make sure you have a clear path
  One firebreather at a time
At Parties
Advanced Techniques

⚠️ For your safety, you should never attempt this

⚠️ ONLY attempt this after you have mastered basic techniques

⚠️ Before attempting, you should be able to regulate the size and duration of your flame reliably

⚠️ Do not tell your mother you’re doing this
Multiple Person Flame

- Have someone ready with a camera

⚠️ Blow at the same time, in the same direction

- Use someone or some action to count to three and synchronize timing

- Before count: fuel in mouth
  1: Ready
  2: Inhale through nose
  3: Spray
Multiple Person Flame
Towards Each Other (far apart)

- Place fuel sources far apart. Neither person’s flame should be able to reach near the other person
  - Follow timing of multi-person
Towards Each Other
(far apart)

Not Far Enough
Roasting Marshmallows

Do not hold marshmallows in your hand. Use a long stick or skewer

- Make sure the firebreather can control the flame
- Closer to the flame source will be safer and result in better tasting marshmallows
- (optional) Soak the marshmallow in alcohol first
Roasting Marshmallows

Yummy!

⚠️
Towards Each Other (close proximity)

- Use a tiki torch planted in the ground
- Both people should duck BEFORE blowing
- Blow almost straight up into the flame source
- Be prepared to get rum sprayed in your eyes
Indoors

⚠ Be absolutely sure you can regulate your flame

⚠ If it is not your home, make sure the owner doesn’t mind or isn’t looking

⚠ Find a path clear of people, smoke detectors, flammables, and things that should not have rum sprayed on them

⚠ Small flames only!
In the Classroom

⚠️ You should never attempt this
GAME OVER