

If you do not build your fire beforehand but expect to set the storm out, you might get fooled and find yourself in a permanent storm without any chance of making a fire. I have never found conditions prohibiting the starting of a fire but can easily see that such conditions exist. If unfavorable conditions exist and if your match supply is limited one may not be fortunate enough to get a fire started. One may seek a shelter beneath the conifers but this type of shelter is only a temporary one because the foliage soon become completely saturated and soon leaks like a sieve, if not more concentrated than a sieve. When worse comes to worse, pick out an opening but near the protection of a conifer stand and try to build a fire. 30' is close enough to your conifers. If you can build your fire near a partial protection, all the better. In my own case I was fortunate enough to get a fire started at the expense of about 13 matches. I have always bragged about starting all fires with one match, but now the conditions were a trifle different. The wind had nearly chilled me numb, my fingers stiff, every piece of wood of any nature was soaked with rain, hail and coated with snow and slush. All twigs had drops of water draining from them. The conditions were just between the freezing point. Sometimes when the wind is blowing one finds it difficult to even start a fire under normal conditions. The best bet when one has neither axe or knife is to use the dead twigs of the conifers however wet they may be. Waste your match supply at them and you will finally see hopes of a fire. The thing to stress during the operation is to never give up because one can very easily do so. It is now one feels his mistake in not getting fire underway before the storm. After getting fire started at 9:30 A.M. I remained with it until 1:30 P.M. except to get more fire wood as supply became exhausted. Until the snow & hail stopped at 1:30 I was forced to stay in the flame of this fire and I mean flames. When your cloths are soaking wet one can remain right in path of flames. Turn around and dry your back and by the time this is warmed your front is soaked again. The wet-warm cycle is a vicious one. It time comes when the lower part legs are dry and then you burn if you do not soak them again. The best way to handle this problem is to build up a protection of logs or stone to knee height and