

Practices and Advice to Dispel Fires

This advice is also for tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and any of those dangers from water, air, earth and fire.

1) Medicine Buddha

When there are fires the best thing to do is rely on the Medicine Buddha, to do Medicine Buddha puja (which can be downloaded [here](#)).

Medicine Buddha practice can also be done for anyone who is sick, dying or even who has already died. This is the best practice to do.

Medicine Buddha practice is not only for healing. In addition, it is very powerful for success and for solving any problems. Medicine Buddha practice is good for someone who has died, for family problems, for someone who is sick, for receiving happiness and freedom from suffering, for finding a job, for success in business, and for all one's wishes to be actualized.

Recite each of the seven Medicine Buddhas' names seven times and chant the mantra. Reciting each of the names seven times fulfills all your wishes, including liberation from samsara, to be free forever from all sufferings and the causes, up to full enlightenment. This includes all the success of this life. This comes about even if you don't pray for it, you still get the results.

This practice is wish-fulfilling for all your happiness, temporary and ultimate, as well as this life's happiness, happiness in future lives and ultimate happiness: liberation from samsara and full enlightenment.

Also this practice fulfills all the wishes of all sentient beings, who are numberless. This means for every single insect, all the ants, bugs, termites, ticks, even the ones you can only see through a microscope. Also all the elephants, zebras, lions, every single bird and all the worms, every single cat, dog, mouse, all the cockroaches, horses, monkeys, kangaroos, squirrels and flies as well as every single human being, and also all the beings in the numberless universes. As well as all the suras, asuras, hell beings, hungry ghosts and intermediate state beings.

The Medicine Buddha mantra is much more precious than skies of gold, diamonds and wish-fulfilling jewels - all this wealth means nothing because it can't purify all the negative karma. Even if you own that much wealth, the Medicine Buddha mantra is much more precious because it leaves imprints of the whole path to enlightenment in your mind; it helps you to have realizations of the whole path to enlightenment. It ceases all the gross and subtle defilements and makes you achieve enlightenment.

With Medicine Buddha mantra you can liberate numberless sentient beings from the oceans of suffering and bring them to enlightenment. So you can see how this practice is much more precious than the sky filled with gold, diamonds, wish-fulfilling jewels and zillions and zillions of dollars.

So with full trust in Medicine Buddha make strong prayers to Medicine Buddha.

You can also make strong prayers for anyone who is dying, sick, or who has already died. Make prayers for the sick to recover. If they are dying then make prayers for them to die with a virtuous, happy mind, with compassion and loving-kindness to all beings as well as devotion to Buddha, Dharma, Sangha. Also for them to be born in a pure land and become enlightened, or to receive a perfect human body, meet a perfectly qualified Mahayana guru, receive teachings and to achieve enlightenment in that life.

So totally rely on Medicine Buddha, with complete faith, to extinguish the fires.

Visualize Medicine Buddha in the sky and nectar coming from Medicine Buddha, like water flowing, think it completely covers all the fires, a very wide flow of nectar, even bigger than Niagara Falls. Think that the nectar is extinguishing all the fires. This is what you visualize as you chant Medicine Buddha mantra.

Also think that a shower of nectar, huge like a waterfall, is flowing and purifying all sentient beings' defilements, negative karma, sickness and spirit harm. Then think that all sentient beings are completely purified.

At the end make prayers that all sentient beings can generate all the realizations, the root: guru devotion, the 3 Principal Paths: renunciation, bodhicitta and emptiness, as well as the two stages.

Then make prayers to generate loving-kindness, compassion in everyone's hearts and to purify all the negative karma – which is the ultimate cause of the fires.

2) White Umbrella Practice

There's an Umbrella protection, prayer and mantra which can be put around your house, inside and outside, to protect from the fire. It can also be printed on flags that fly over the house. This is very powerful to protect from the four elements and other dangers from living beings, including lawsuits, etc.

You can also put the White Umbrella deity's picture up. Then you should visualize that rainfalls of nectar are emitted. This nectar stops the fires, purifies the suffering of the insects, and purifies the negative karma of all the sentient beings. All are liberated.

3) The Heart Mantra of Arya Vairocana

Put the [Heart Mantra of Arya Vairocana](#) around the house/buildings to protect from fire danger.

4) Ksitigarbha Mantra and Practice

Recite the [Ksitigarbha mantra](#) and do the practice as much as possible.

5) Chenrezig Practice

Then also you can do Chenrezig practice. Completely rely on Chenrezig, make prayers and visualize Chenrezig in the sky, and nectar flows from Chenrezig and purifies all the causes of the fire - the main cause is negative karma.

6) Lama Chopa

Visualize the Lama Chopa merit field with a great stream of nectar coming from the merit field and putting out the fires and especially helping the insects and animas who are suffering and perishing in the fire. This is best done in the context of doing the whole Lama Chopa (if you have time). Showers of nectar pour down purifying the negative karma of the suffering sentient beings who are suffering from the fire and who have been destroyed in the fire, and also of all the suffering sentient beings in the six realms. Also visualize that the nectar as it pours down is changing the karma and the minds of the nagas, dergye (harmful spirits) and landlord beings, changing their negative mind so that they do not harm anymore.

It's very important that one has one-pointed refuge in the merit field while doing this practice, and that one recites the mig-me mantras while doing this visualization.

7) Protector Prayers

Doing protector prayers is very good, especially tea offering to dergye as they control the elements, so it is important to appease them. But you can't just offer tea and do nothing with the mind; you have to generate great bliss and emptiness.

If the person who does the prayers has realizations:

Any prayer done by a being with higher realizations, such as a bodhisattva, can also extinguish fires. This includes yogis and tantric practitioners who have achieved clear light, illusory body. They can extinguish the fire with their practice. Like Lama Tsongkhapa who extinguished a fire at Ganden with his mind.

Also if the person who makes the prayers actually has realizations – not even tantric realizations, even just the realization of bodhicitta, which is actually the best realization – if a person with bodhicitta prays, then every single word, every single prayer, has incredible power.

Similarly, if someone has realizations of emptiness, their prayers also become extremely powerful. Also, if a spiritual person who has a very pure heart, unstained by the 8 worldly concerns makes prayers, their prayers will also have incredible power. Also, if a person who is living a pure life, in pure morality (lay or ordained, but especially ordained) prays, their prayers have a lot of power.

When someone with any of these realizations prays, then the devas, nagas, and all the other beings, including the eight groups of worldly beings (who are very connected with the weather and the elements and who cause the elements to be destructive), will listen more and obey these practitioners. Even if the practitioner does not have the other realizations mentioned but at least lives in morality, then these beings will obey this person, and the harms and destructions from the elements can be stopped.

There is one story of Lama Kalsang Jamyang Mönlam who had bodhicitta realizations. When Tashi Lhunpo Monastery was in danger of being flooded, he wrote on a stone, "If it is true that I have bodhicitta, then the water should turn back." After writing this on the stone, the river actually turned and went backwards.

There are many stories of the power of bodhicitta. How it can control and affect the elements. There are even examples in Christianity, as well as many examples in Buddhism.

There is one story about the great St. Francis of Assisi. Once he was living and meditating in a cave with his disciples. His disciples asked St. Francis to stop the water that flowed inside the cave and that was disturbing their meditation. St. Francis went to the place where the water was flowing down the mountain and said, “Sister, my disciples can’t meditate.” Then the water stopped flowing from that time until the present day. It would be considered very inauspicious if the water were to start to flow again. So the water stopped flowing due to the power of St. Francis’ bodhicitta.

St. Francis is exactly like the Kadampa geshe, even in his external appearance, even though he was from another tradition. His mind was totally pure; there was no stain of the eight worldly concerns, and he was a totally renounced, pure, spiritual person. Like the Kadampa geshe St. Francis also asked his disciples to criticize him. He preferred to be criticized rather than be praised. You can even feel his gentleness from his statues and from his face, which is a sign of having bodhicitta and having a totally tame, subdued mind. He seems so peaceful and humble and very wonderful to look at, very inspirational. All the birds loved him and always stayed around him and on his body. This is also a sign that he was a great holy being, a saint having bodhicitta.

Colophon: Advice given by Lama Zopa Rinpoche, August 23, 2007, New York City with additions from advice given July 2014, Madison, USA. Scribed by Vens Thubten Munsel, Holly Ansett and Roger Kunsang, lightly edited by Claire Isitt. Updated August 2014.