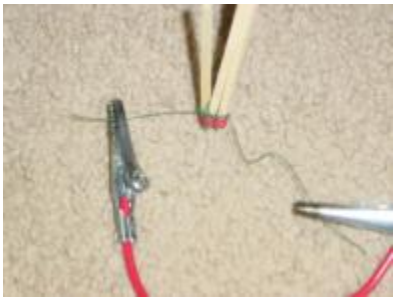
Council Fire Starter and Igniter

Materials:	Can be found at:	Cost:
1 15 foot 16 gauge extension cord.	Wal-Mart	2.38
3 wood stick strike anywhere matches	Wal-Mart 3 boxes for	.99
1 12 volt car battery.	In your Car or RR Van	
4 standard 110 volt Light switch.		.42
1 standard 110 volt Air-conditioner Cord		4.00
1Plastic Tool Box with Tray Rain Water Tight	Lumber yard	9.99
1 small roll of Wal-Mart floral Craft Wire (Green) found in the craft dept.		.99
4 test leads with alligator clips from Wal-Mart automotive department pack of 2		.99
4 switch wall plates		.22
4 feet of 12-2 wire or old 12 gage Extension cord		2.00
1 inline 30 amp 230 volt fuse		2.00
1 set of car battery charging clips		2.00



Steps to make the igniter. (See Picture)
1. Cut off a 6" piece of Wal-Mart Green floral Craft wire.
2. Lash and frap 3 Match heads with the 6" long Craft Wire (around the heads.)
3. Make another for a test circuit.
4. Tear up 3 cotton balls until they are very loose and fuzzy.
5.Take the torn up cotton balls and wrap them loosely around the two igniters.
6. Congratulations you now have 2 igniters. One will be used for the Test Setup and the other for the fire

Steps to make the trigger.
Caution: If you don't do this right you could have a short circuit and a big surprise.
Take the Air conditioner cord and cut it in half. Attach the the 2 battery charger clips to the female end of the air conditioner cord with the fuse inline on the Red Clip side. Black goes to one side of the 30 amp inline fuse and the other end of the fuse goes to the battery Clip. I used a soldering gun to make the connections good.

Now for the tray. Take a piece of plywood or chip board 1/2" and lay out 4 switches and 2 electrical boxes see picture. Wire the 1st switch to the 1st outlet. 2nd switch to the 2nd outlet and 3rd and 4th as well. This wiring is just like a house lighting circuit. Now take the air conditioner male end pigtail and wire it into your switch tray arrangement. I ran it out the top of the tray see the picture. I used two 1/4" bolts to bold the 1/2" plywood into the tray.

Caution: If you don't do this right you could have a short circuit and a big surprise. Now plug your switch setup into the female plug coming from the car battery. (Get in the habit of doing this last after all wiring is done and just before your ready to ignite.). If you did all connections right you should have a 4 12 volt switched systems. Where the circuit is off when the light switch is off and on when it is on.

Now for the test!!!! (you fire bug you)
Go outside to a safe fire prevention place that has fire prevention items handy and lay out the 15 foot lamp extension cord. Cut the end off the female end of the 15 foot cord strip the insulation back 3/4 of an inch. Connect the two Alligator clips to the stripped ends of the extension cord. Connect the other ends of the alligator clips

(about a 20" test lead) to the Igniters you made...but first it is important to strip the paint off the igniter wire that the alligator clip will attach to. So use the alligator clip and scrape the end of the floral wire a few times to clean the paint off.

Then anchor the igniter so it won't blow away (put a rock on the wire about 12" from the two igniters. check to see the alligator clips are not touching each other at the igniter. Check the switch that is in the off position. Now plug in the extension cord to the switch box that is plugged into the car battery. Your set and ready to hit the switch and set off your igniter. Always test your setup. I have used a 100 foot extension cord successfully to start these igniters. This system works every time. I have not had it fail once. I teach this method at LTA fire craft class and it works great.

Hope this helps. I wanted a safer way that is reliable to light our Council fires. This is a better way then black powder and rocket igniters. If you need to go farther from the fire use bigger extension cords like the ones you would plug a power saw into.

Make it safe. Make it exciting and make it happen!

Mark Jones