

Dear Ms. Banks:

I have owned my Fry-Bakes for several years and have used them extensively canoe and kayak camping in the BWCA, Quetico, and the Apostle Islands as well as car camping all over. A buddy first introduced me to them on a kayak trip in the Apostle Islands and I was hooked from there... I'm actually even a bit of an "evangelist" for your product. I've yet to take a trip with folks who've not seen them, fallen in love, and then bought a pan or two (why would anyone buy just one?) when we got back.

Here's one of my favorite meals done in your fry-bakes - fish tacos and chocolate chip bars.





Backcountry pizza is also a specialty!

On October 15, 2011, we had a fire which destroyed our house. The fire started in the garage, going to the south wall, and then pushed into the attic and house. (Everyone made it out, no worries, only property damage – lots of property damage...) The hottest part of the fire was along that south wall of the garage because the wind was pushing hard from the west and there was a fire wall right behind it (I'm now a believer in fire walls, but that's a bit off topic...). Unfortunately, along the south wall was where I had all my shelving and stored all my camping gear including the fry-bakes. I also stored all my gas cans, paint, propane, fryer oil, etc. right there too. Parked right next to those shelves was my suburban, full of gas, which burned completely. The suburban burned so hot that the concrete beneath it was ruined and in chunks the next day.

You can see here the garage the morning after the fire. You can barely make out the suburban (a garage door is ripped off and leaning against the suburban).



Below is a picture of that south wall. I stored my fry-bakes back in the corner on the middle shelf where indicated here. As we were doing the demolition I found the pans and pulled them from the rubble, throwing them in a box and then into a storage bin until I could get to them. I wondered if they'd be salvageable at all.

Fry-bakes
stored here



We moved back into our house a few weeks ago. I've been working every free hour on it for months so had no time to think about camping or gear. This Tuesday night I finally had some time to pull the pans out of storage and thought I'd try to clean them up and see if I could save them. Frankly, I didn't have much hope. I've learned that when one has a fire one is inclined to try to save things only to discover that much of what one saved was ultimately beyond salvage and should have been tossed in the first place...

Here is a picture of the pans (still stacked together) right after I pulled them out of the box. They were completely blackened from the smoke.



But when I opened them up there was essentially no harm inside the pans! They were not bent, warped, cracked, etc. There was just a little bit of blackened debris and discoloring!



I used steel wool and soapy water and scrubbed them up in a few minutes while I grilled dinner. I was amazed! They are truly as good as new! Even after being at ground zero in a fire that destroyed everything in my garage and ruined our house! (Don't tell anyone, but I actually didn't want to over-polish them for fear folks would think I never use them...)



By way of example, my fry-bakes were sitting next to my MSR cookware set (admittedly a different type of pan). The MSR cookware melted completely, nothing left at all! The suburban was totally destroyed with things like metal seat springs, glass, steel belted tires completely gone. Everything else on those shelves was completely destroyed.

I thought you'd be intrigued. Thanks for the great pans!

Best,

Shaun Floerke
Duluth, MN

PS: People thought I was a little crazy about these pans before, they're sure going to get sick of me going on about them now!