

## Fire Safety in the Countryside

Every year, fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside and wildlife habitats. Some fires are started deliberately, but most are due to carelessness.

- ✓ Extinguish cigarettes and other smoking materials properly.
- ✓ Never throw cigarette ends out of car windows – they can ruin whole fields of crops.
- ✓ Only use barbecues in suitable and safe areas and never leave them unattended.
- ✓ Keep young children and ball games away from barbecues.
- ✓ Ensure that your barbecue is fully extinguished and cold before disposing of the contents.
- ✗ Avoid using open fires in the countryside.
- ✗ Do not leave bottles or glass in woodlands. Sunlight shining through glass can start large fires. Take them home or put them in a waste or recycling bin.



### Don't be the cause of wildfire mayhem!

- It might seem like a good idea at the time, but a fire in the open can easily get out of control.
- Check first with the landowner if fires and barbecues are permitted.
- Only have them in a safe, designated area.
- Keep children away from matches and cigarettes, and open fires.

! **If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately. Don't attempt to tackle fires that cannot be put out with a bucket of water. Leave the area as soon as possible.**

### The Countryside Code

The Countryside Code contains advice for the public and landowners. It has information about rights, responsibilities and liabilities and how we all have a duty to protect the countryside. Together with common sense, it helps to make it easy for visitors to act responsibly and identify possible dangers.

To find out more about the Code, visit [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)

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# Summer Fire Safety



## STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

# Fire Safety: Barbecues

Having a barbecue should be a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. But cooking over hot coals can be hazardous. It's easy to be distracted when you have family and friends around you whilst cooking.

- ✓ Make sure that your barbecue is in good working order.
- ✓ Keep a bucket of water, a bucket of sand or a garden hose nearby in case of emergencies.
- ✓ Make sure your barbecue site is flat and well away from sheds, fences, trees and shrubs.
- ✓ Use only enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about 50mm (two inches).
- ✓ Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area.
- ✓ When you've finished cooking, make sure the barbecue is cool before trying to move it. Empty ashes onto bare garden soil.
- ✗ Never leave the barbecue unattended.
- ✗ Never put ashes straight into a dustbin or wheelie bin. If they're hot, they can melt the plastic and cause a fire.

! **Remember – Barbecues should never be lit indoors!**

## Barbecue gone out?

Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue.  
Use only recognised lighters or starter fuel, on cold coals.



## Gas Barbecues

- ✓ Bottled gas barbecues need special care when being turned on and off.
- ✓ Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.
- ✓ Change gas cylinders in the open air if possible or open doors and windows to provide good ventilation.
- ✓ When you've finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before you turn off the barbecue controls, to ensure any gas in the pipeline is used up.
- ! **If you suspect a leak to the gas cylinder or pipe work:**
- ✓ Brush soapy water around all joints and watch for bubbles.
- ✓ If you find a leaky joint, try to tighten it.
- ✗ But do not over tighten.

## Storing Gas Cylinders

- ✓ Store gas cylinders outside.
- ✓ Keep gas cylinders away from frost and direct sunlight.
- ✗ Do not keep more spare gas cylinders than you need.
- ! **Enjoy yourself, but remember – too much alcohol and fire never mix!**
- ✗ Never store gas cylinders under the stairs of your home - if you are upstairs this is your means of escape from a fire.

# Fire Safety: Camping

## The Basics

Everyone loves to relax and enjoy the great outdoors when camping. But just because you're taking a break, don't forget fire safety precautions. When you arrive at your site:

- ✓ Ensure that tents are kept at least 6 metres apart.
- ✓ Find out what the fire-fighting arrangements on the campsite are and where the nearest telephone is.
- ✓ Keep a torch handy for emergencies. Don't use a lit candle.



## If there's a fire:

- ✓ Fires in tents spread very quickly. Get everyone out straight away.
- ✓ Call the Fire and Rescue Service and give the exact location.
- ✓ Give a map reference, if possible. Otherwise, give a landmark such as a farm or pub to help the Fire and Rescue Service locate you.

## Tents

- ✓ Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- ✓ Flammable liquids and gas cylinders should be kept outside the tent and away from children.
- ✓ Keep cooking appliances away from walls and the roof and where they can easily be knocked over.
- ✓ Do not cook near flammable materials or long grass.
- ✓ Have an escape plan and be prepared to cut your way out of the tent if there is a fire.
- ✓ Make sure everyone knows how to put out a clothing fire – stop, drop and roll.



- ✗ Never use candles in or near a tent. Torches are much safer.
- ✗ Oil burning appliances shouldn't be used in or around tents.
- ✗ Cooking appliances should not be used in small tents.
- ✗ Don't smoke inside tents.
- ! **Prevention is key. A fire can destroy a tent in less than 60 seconds. Avoid using naked flames inside tents.**