



Dry Weather Advice

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is urging members of the public to stay safe in the summer months, especially when visiting the countryside, using barbecues, or going for a swim in open water.

In 2022, fire crews attended over 500 fires in the open throughout the county during July and August, including a large number of heath land and countryside fires.

Fires in the countryside can easily be started accidentally, or even deliberately. A carelessly discarded cigarette can lead to a huge fire, where the results to the wildlife can be devastating. Please follow these basic guidelines to help keep Suffolk's countryside free from fire:

Basic Guidelines

- Do not discard cigarettes in the countryside
- Do not leave glass items around after a picnic or barbecue
- Put all litter in the bin
- Do not light barbecues
- Do not light fires
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately by calling 999
- Don't attempt to tackle fires that can't be put out with a bucket of water – leave the area as quickly as possible

Barbecues

- Site the barbecue well away from anything flammable, such as sheds, fences and shrubs
- Never build fires in fields or forests
- Position the barbecue on a firm, level base and shelter it from gusts of wind
- Keep at least one bucket of water handy – just in case
- Use recommended fluids or fire lighters when starting a barbecue
- Never use any flammable liquid (such as petrol) to start or revive a bonfire or barbecue

Sky Lanterns

Sky Lanterns are a beautiful sight, but can cause fires, waste police time, be mistaken for distress flares, mislead aircraft and kill or seriously injure livestock.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service does not support the use of these devices and we urge members of the public and event organisers to avoid using them.

Swimming in Open Water

It can be tempting to try to cool down with a swim in hot weather, but statistics show that around 85% of drownings happen in open water.

Even strong swimmers are not immune to the danger posed by cold water shock, uneven banks and river beds and strong currents.

Follow guidance from the Royal Life Saving Society to help prevent death or serious injury when swimming.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

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