

# Dry Weather Advice

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is urging members of the public to be aware of the potential risks posed by fire during a dry spell of weather, especially when using barbecues, lighting Chinese lanterns or disposing of smoking materials.

In 2011 fire crews attended 255 incidents throughout the county between 1 April and 1 July 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 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

- 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

## Chinese Lanterns

- Use only in very calm wind conditions. Lanterns should not be used when wind speed is above 5 mph
- Do not use in the vicinity of dry crops, thatched roofs or other materials that may catch fire
- Keep a fire extinguisher or bucket of water nearby
- If the lantern's paper does catch fire, extinguish and discard
- Only use in open spaces

**If things go wrong, call the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service immediately by dialling 999.**

## Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

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