

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

Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Tel: 01473 260588

Email: fire.businesssupport@suffolk.gov.uk

