

Thatched Properties

There are many thatched properties throughout the county of Suffolk and they are an important part of our heritage.

Thatched properties do, however, have their own special fire safety issues.

A thatched roof is always at risk from fire. Once a fire has taken hold in a thatch it will spread rapidly. The commonest cause of fire in a thatched roof is heat transfer from the chimney; other causes include electrical faults, lightning affecting the television aerial, stray sparks from chimneys, discarded cigarettes and garden bonfires

- Television aerials should be fitted to a freestanding pole. Where this is not possible it may be fixed to a gable or gable end chimney where the cable can be run down the wall, avoiding contact with the thatch.
- Disconnect the TV aerial during electrical storms to prevent damage to the system. Lightning conductors should conform to British Standard BS EN 62305: 2006.
- Protect your household by fitting and maintaining smoke alarms.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service can offer fire safety advice regarding thatched properties. Please contact us if you



would like an information booklet or, if you prefer, you can download this booklet by using the following link:

Thatched Property Safety Guide

(/NR/rdonlyres/64D2DBD4-E26F-41E5-8735-4882E267C144/0/ThatchedBooklet.pdf)

If you suspect a fire in your thatched property you should call the fire service out immediately.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Tel: 01473 260588

Email: fire.businesssupport@suffolk.gov.uk

