

Preventing fires in Grassland and Standing Crops

- The danger of fire during hot weather is self-evident; however, many fires occur in the spring and late summer, usually due to carelessness.
- Don't allow the lighting of open fires or barbecues.
- Ensure cigarettes etc., are extinguished carefully.
- Only allow camping and picnicking in monitored areas.
- Provide litter receptacles for bottles and other rubbish - empty them regularly.
- Ask parents to supervise their children.
- Regularly check and maintain open water supplies for firefighting.

Remember:

report all incidents of fire and anyone acting suspiciously to the Gardai



If a fire does break out

- Call 112 or 999 without delay.
- Speak calmly and clearly and only hang up when the operator tells you.
- Only attempt to fight the fire if it is safe to do so.
- Send someone to the farm entrance to direct the fire brigade to the fire.
- Prepare to evacuate livestock should the fire spread.
- Prepare to use farm machinery to assist the fire brigade under their supervision.

Fire safety for Farms and Rural Areas



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fire safety
Be on your guard



- Every year the Fire Service attends fires on farms, most commonly to hay barn fires. Most hay barn fires start as a result of either natural processes, carelessness or arson. Major fires can put even the most well run business under financial difficulty.
- Farms are particularly vulnerable to arson - their isolated location, open boundaries, readily ignitable hay and straw make them an easy target. Whilst arson attacks on farms and small holdings may be difficult to eliminate, a number of simple precautions can substantially reduce the risk of attack.
- A lighted cigarette butt thrown from a passing vehicle can mean the loss of whole fields of standing crops whilst glass bottles left lying around can, in grass or woodlands, cause fires of huge proportions.
- Hay and straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible after harvesting.

When storing Hay and Straw

- ✓ Store them separate from other buildings, particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery.
- ✓ Store them in stacks of reasonable size.
- ✓ Store separately from livestock housing where possible, always have an evacuation plan for livestock.
- ✓ Petrol, diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas; storage tank outlets should be padlocked.
- ✓ Fertilisers and pesticides should be kept under lock and key in a secure area.
- ✓ Refuse should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.
- ✓ Electrical wiring should be checked regularly by a competent person to avoid overheating or arcing of connections in hay barns.
- ✓ Electric fences should not be located near the storage of hay/straw due to arcing that may occur when wires touch off objects.
- ✓ Avoid using machinery in or near hay barns as exhaust sparks may be released into the stored fodder.

Remember:

- Maintain firefighting equipment and check that it is in good order.
- Prepare a fire routine and action plan, make sure all farm workers know what to do.
- A knowledge of access to nearby water supplies by farm staff will be invaluable to the Fire Brigade.

