



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# Summer fire safety





There have been over 18,000 grass and forestry fires in Wales over the last three years at a total cost to society of over £36million.



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# Fire safety in the countryside

**Every year, fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside and wildlife habitats. Many fires are started deliberately, but some are due to carelessness.**

- Extinguish cigarettes and other smoking materials properly.
- Never throw cigarette ends out of car windows, they can start grass fires.
- Only use barbeques in suitable and safe areas and never leave them unattended.
- Do not play near barbeques.
- Ensure that your barbeque is fully extinguished and cold before disposing of the contents.
- Never start open fires in the countryside.
- Always remove your rubbish.



## Do not be the cause of wildfire mayhem.

- It might seem like a good idea at the time, but a fire in the open can easily get out of control.
- Check first with the landowner if barbeques are permitted, and only have them in a safe, designated area.
- Keep children away from matches, cigarettes and open fires.


### Attention:

If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately. Do not attempt to tackle fires, leave the area quickly and safely.



# Storing gas cylinders

- Store gas cylinders in good, safe conditions.
- Keep gas cylinders away from frost and direct sunlight.
- Never store gas cylinders under the stairs of your home - if you are upstairs this is your means of escape from a fire.
- Do not keep gas cylinders that you do not need.  
Return all empty cylinders to where you bought them.



**Do not keep  
gas cylinders  
that you do  
not need**



# Fire safety: camping and caravan

## Stay safe, check these out:

- Ensure tents or caravans are kept at least six metres apart.
- Find out what the fire-fighting arrangements are on the campsite and where the nearest telephone is.
- Keep a torch handy for emergencies. Do not use a candle.
- Fit an optical smoke alarm into your caravan.
- Do not leave children alone in a caravan.

## If there is a fire:

- Get everyone out straight away. Fires in tents and caravans spread very quickly.
- Call the fire and rescue service.
- Give a map reference, if possible. Otherwise give a landmark such as a farm or pub to help the fire and rescue service locate you.



# Tents

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Keep flammable liquids and gas cylinders away from tents.
- Do not cook inside your tent.
- Be prepared to cut your way out of your tent in the event of a fire.
- If your clothing catches fire, **STOP, DROP AND ROLL.**
- Never use candles in or near a tent. Torches are much safer.
- Oil burning appliances should not be used in or around tents.
- Cooking appliances should not be used in small tents.
- Do not smoke inside tents.

## Prevention is key:

A fire can destroy  
a tent in less  
than 60 seconds.  
Avoid using naked  
flames inside tents.



# Fire safety: barbeques

- Make sure that your barbeque is in good working order.
- Keep a bucket of water, a bucket of sand or a garden hose nearby in case of emergencies.
- Make sure that your barbeque site is flat and well away from buildings, fences, trees and shrubs.
- Use only enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbeque to a depth of about 50mm (two inches).
- Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area.
- Do not drink and cook.
- When you've finished cooking, make sure the barbeque is cold before trying to move it. Empty ashes onto bare garden soil.
- Never leave the barbeque unattended.
- Never put ashes straight into a dustbin or wheelie bin. If they're hot, they can melt the plastic and cause a fire.



**Remember:**  
Barbeques  
should never  
be lit  
indoors!

# Gas barbeques

- Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.
- Change gas cylinders in the open air if possible or open doors and windows to provide good ventilation.
- When you've finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before you turn off the barbeque controls, to ensure any gas in the pipeline is used up.

## Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

**If you suspect a leak to the gas cylinder or pipe work:**

- Have the barbeque serviced by a competent person.





**If in an event of  
a fire - get out,  
stay out and  
phone  
999**

**For a free home fire safety check from  
your local Fire and Rescue Service  
please call **0800 169 1234**  
**[www.fireflash.org](http://www.fireflash.org)****

