

Preventing Fires In Grassland And Standing Crops

Don't

- ✗ Allow the lighting of open fires or barbeques.

Make Sure To:

- ✓ 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 Gardaí.

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.



www.fireireland.ie



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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Fire Safety For Farms And Rural Areas



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Be Aware

- 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

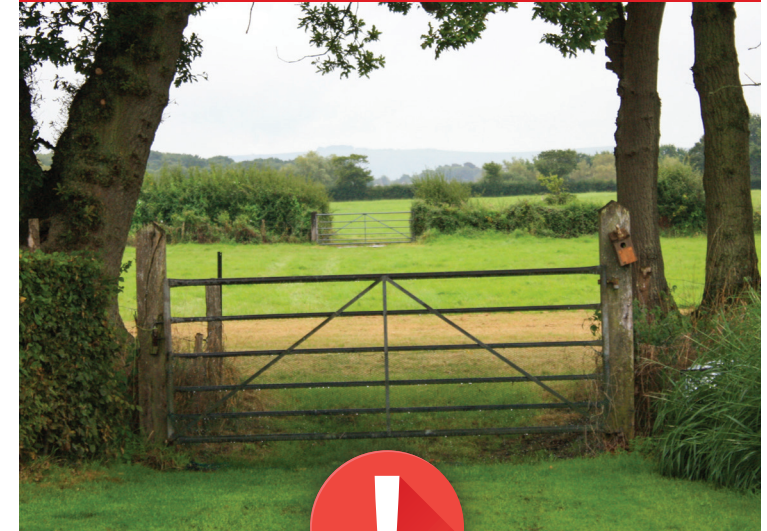
- ✓ Store them separate from other buildings, particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery.
- ✓ Store them in stacks of reasonable size.
- ✓ Store separately from livestock housing where possible, always have an evacuation plan for livestock.
- ✓ Petrol, diesel and other fuels should 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.



On average, **over 190 fires in agricultural buildings** are annually attended by fire and rescue services nationally.

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.



On average, nearly **3000 fires annually** are put out by fire and rescue services nationally, that have triggered in forests, on bogs or on grass.

fire safety
Be on your guard