**Shropshire**
Fire and Rescue Service

**Putting Shropshire's Safety First**
www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

# Farm Fire Safety

**Please note: This safety advice is offered as guidance only.**
**If in doubt, Get out, Stay out and get the Fire and Rescue Service out!**

**The number of farm fires is on the increase so don't let your farm become a statistic. You can prevent these fires by following a few simple rules:**

- ☑ Control smoking and hot working (work associated with welding/blow lamps etc).
- ☑ Maintain machinery in good working order, especially when coming out of storage, ensure that it is free from grease, straw and hay
- ☑ Hay and straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible after harvesting and stored, taking care to ensure that it is dry to prevent spontaneous combustion.Separate from other buildings, particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery. In stacks of reasonable size, spaced at least 10 metres apart. Separate from livestock housing, and not too close to roof lighting.
- ☑ Petrol, diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas with storage tank outlets padlocked.
- ☑ Fertilizers and pesticides should have the correct signage and be kept under lock and key.
- ☑ Electrical safety checks should be carried out.
- ☑ Assess farm security security measures i.e. lighting, fencing and locks.
- ☑ Maintain firefighting equipment and check that it is in good working order. Refuse should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.
- ☑ Ensure that escape routes and passages are kept free from any stored materials or equipment at all times.
- ☑ Ensure everyone knows where the nearest phone is located and how to call the Emergency Services.
- ☑ Prepare a fire routine and action plan, make sure family and farm workers know what to do.
- ☑ Ensure cigarettes are extinguished carefully.
- ☑ Only allow camping and picnicking in monitored areas.
- ☑ Regularly check and maintain open water supplies for firefighting.

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**In an emergency call 999 and provide:**

- ☑ Full address of the premises.
- ☑ Directions if its location is not obvious, for example when along lanes, send someone to the farm entrance to direct the Fire and Rescue Service (appliances may have to travel from outside the local area)
- ☑ Any local landmark such as a church or other well known reference point.
- ☑ An Ordnance Survey 6 figure grid reference.
- ☑ Be prepared to evacuate livestock should the fire spread.
- ☑ You may be able to assist the Fire and Rescue Service by using farm machinery to move straw/hay etc.

**Controlled burning - if you are doing any controlled burning such as burning rubbish please contact Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service 01746 260 200.**

**Reducing the risk of arson:**

- ☑ Maintain a good standard of security for all outbuildings.
- ☑ Prevent easy access to fuel and chemical storage areas.
- ☑ Repair or replace damage fencing or gates.
- ☑ Install intruder sensor and security lighting.
- ☑ Use dogs or geese to give early warning of intruders.

**You maybe required to carry out a Fire Safety Risk Assessment under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, for further information see www.shropshirefire.gov.uk or call Business Fire Safety on 01743 260 260.**