

Local News

02/08/18 - Rural Arson Awareness

Fire & Arson Advice For Farms

Every year in the UK, farm buildings, crops, grassland and hedges are destroyed by fire. Some occur deliberately by an act of mindless vandalism, or occasionally a fraudulent insurance claim, but a large number are caused by accident or careless behaviour.

A serious fire on a farm can affect the financial stability of even the most well run business and can cause enormous damage to the environment.

Access

It is really important to ensure that the emergency services can quickly find and access your property and key areas. Ensure the property name is clearly shown at the entrance from the road from both directions.

Arson Prevention

Farms are particularly vulnerable to arson. Their isolated location, open boundaries and readily ignitable hay and straw make them an easy target. While arson attacks on farms and small holdings may be difficult to eliminate, a number of simple precautions can substantially reduce the risk of attack.

Tips to consider:

- Hay and straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible.
- Hay and straw should be stored separately from other buildings, particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery. Proximity to housed livestock should also be considered.
- Petrol, diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas and storage tank outlets padlocked and alarmed.
- Fertilisers and pesticides should be kept under lock and key. The Health & Safety Executive can provide further advice on the storage and transportation of fertilisers, particularly ammonium nitrate.
- Rubbish should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.
- Ensure you have fire extinguishers and an easily accessible water supply for key areas.
- Assess the risk, do a quick and simple survey around the farm to identify vulnerable areas and how you can improve them. If you are unsure on any areas speak to your local fire officer who will be happy to help.

Fire Prevention

Ensure there are good access routes to all areas, including fields for the emergency services and make sure all staff know where the nearest water supply is. Invite your local fire officer to visit the farm to check these and be aware of the layout of the farm and make any suggestions that could improve fire safety.

Make sure everyone on the farm has basic training and knows the contingency plans in place in case of a fire. This includes location and use of the different fire extinguishers.

Ensure your fire extinguishers are fit for purpose and are checked regularly. Have one with every vehicle in case of emergencies, especially at harvest and when on the highway.

Make sure machinery is chaff free, is serviced and in good condition.

Regularly check and maintain open water supplies that may need to be used in the case of a fire.

Put up notices and remind employees and visitors to the farm about being careful with cigarettes and matches.

Prepare to assist the fire service with farm machinery if needed.

Always stop and check hot running bearings, machines or smoke from an engine or machinery part.

If lighting a controlled fire or working in conditions such as harvest or with machinery where there is a risk of fire, be aware of windy conditions and the direction of the wind.

Always have a charged mobile phone with you and ensure someone knows where you are.

During Harvest Time

Have a tractor and associated equipment ready to cut a fire break.

Keep a full water bowser or tank in or near to the field where you are working.

Clean machinery every day, especially combines and tractors to stop the build-up of chaff; if necessary use a compressor to blow debris away.

In windy or breezy conditions consider harvesting from downwind in an upwind direction, so that if a fire did start, it would not be driven through the remaining crops.

Consider cultivating fire breaks around the fields that have been harvested.

In the Case of a Fire

Call the fire service immediately with the exact location, vital minutes can make a huge difference.

If possible have people at the farm entrance and on the farm to direct the fire service as soon as they arrive, especially if the fire cannot be seen from the road or is easily accessible from the farm entrance.

Evacuate livestock to a safe area well away from the fire.

Move any farm machinery or combustible materials that are close to where the fire is, always putting your and others safety first.

Always be aware of where everyone is during the fire, it is easy for people to be lost in the smoke or cut off.

Have a pre-arranged point where everyone can go to and be accounted for.

Use the appropriate fire extinguishers for the type of fire.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49940/Rural-Arson-Awareness>

01/08/18 - Suspicious Activity

Please be aware of door knockers that are portraying to be working for a charity or other organisation, are attempting to gain entry into the houses and stealing.

Descriptions have been given for Eastern European Males/Females below the age of 50 coming into areas in a blue vehicle, possibly a Peugeot. Offences have taken place in the daytime and afternoon times.

Please report any suspicious activity to the Police.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49861/Suspicious-Activity>

Community Messages

31/07/18 - Vehicle Taken by Red Pick Up Truck in Curdworth

Some time between 12.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs on the 30/7/18, a silver Citroen Picasso was taken from a car park on Kingsbury Road, Curdworth, by a red pick up truck.

If you have any information that could help the police with their enquiries please call 101 and refer to inc 273 of 30/7/18.

31/07/18 - Vehicle Taken in Nether Whitacre

Some time between 18.00 hrs and 19.15 hrs on 30/7/18, unknown offender(s) took a blue Landrover Evoque from a car park on Gate Lane, Nether Whitacre.

If you saw anyone or have any information that could help the police with their enquiries please call 101 and refer to inc 351 of 30/7/18.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49816/Vehicle-Taken-in-Nether-Whitacre>

31/07/18 - Stolen moped

Between 01:00hrs and 10:00hrs on 30/07/2018 a Peugeot 50cc moped has been stolen from the roadside outside a house on Ashwood Road, Nuneaton. If you have any information please contact 101 quoting inc 131 (30/07/2018).

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49811/Stolen-moped>

30/07/18 - Scam alerts from Warwickshire Trading Standards

Doorstep Charity Collection Warning

Nuneaton residents are warned to beware of doorstep charity collectors operating in the town who are reported to have pushed their way in to elderly people's homes. One complaint related to a couple receiving a knock at the door from someone with poor English asking for a £10 donation for 'disabled charities'. When the couple refused they dropped their request to £5 and then £2 and attempted to push their way in to the couple's property.

Trading Standards Officers are concerned that these persistent approaches may be a prelude to a distraction burglary and warn residents to keep their doors closed.

Tax Arrest Threat Scam

Residents in Bedworth and across Warwickshire are warned to beware of phone calls from fraudsters claiming to be HMRC. The callers attempt to frighten residents by falsely suggesting that the Police are on the verge of arresting them for unpaid taxes. The fraudsters then ask the residents to pay the 'tax bill' often demanding they pay using iTunes gift card voucher codes.

A number of Bedworth residents have recently reported receiving these phone calls, but the problem is widespread across Warwickshire.

- HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ever ask for payment in this way.
- Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should never trust the number you see on your telephones display.
- If you receive a suspicious cold call, end it immediately.

Bitcoin investment scams

A Warwickshire resident reported losing over £3000 after being cold called and offered an opportunity to 'invest' in Bitcoins via an online platform. The resident transferred the money which was then almost immediately withdrawn by the fraudsters.

You can't tell a good trader from a bad one over the phone. Never buy goods or services from cold callers.

Free solar panel 'health check'

Owners of solar panels are warned to beware of letters and cold calls from bogus/high pressure companies offering solar

panel 'health checks' that are in reality an opportunity to sell the resident highly priced and unnecessary warranties and additional solar panel equipment.

Bogus BT callers

Attempts are being made by fraudsters to obtain the banking details of Warwickshire residents by making calls falsely claiming to be BT and other telephone service providers. The fraudsters telephone unsuspecting consumers, claiming that their broadband speed is not as fast as it should be and offering them £200 refunds. They then ask for the individuals' bank details to so they can 'pay the money in'. In reality, bank details stolen in this way are used for criminal activity.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49741/Scam-alerts-from-Warwickshire-Trading-Standards>

30/07/18 - Van Entered in Hurley

Inc 33 of 29/7/18

At around 01.15 hrs on 29/7/18, a van parked at Hurley Common, Hurley was broken into and a number of items were taken. The offenders were disturbed by the van owner who saw them make off towards Wood End.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49726/Van-Entered-in-Hurley>

30/07/18 - Damage Caused at Rural Business Premises in Middleton

Some time between 17.00 hrs on 29/7/18 and 08.30 hrs on 30/7/18, unknown offender(s) entered a business premises in a rural area of Middleton. A wooden gate was broken to gain access and the glass in the bottom of a door was smashed. It is not known at this time if anything has been taken.

If you saw anyone or a vehicle acting suspiciously in the area or have any information that could help the police with their enquiries please call 101 and refer to inc 88 of 30/7/18.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49721/Damage-Caused-at-Rural-Business-Premises-in-Middleton>

30/07/18 - Incidents Reported in Hurley

Inc 142 of 29/7/18

Some time between 01.30 hrs and 08.00 hrs on 29/7/18, unknown offender(s) entered a rural property on Dexter Lane, Hurley and entered two outbuildings used for storage and a barn. A high pressure hose and strimmer were taken.

Inc 93 of 29/7/18

In the early hrs of 29/7/18, an offender was disturbed at a stable yard in Hurley. Damage was caused to locks on the stables and to a horse box parked at the property. It is believed that nothing was taken as the owners arrived, disturbing the offender who made off. A vehicle, described as a silver MG, registration ending SKY was seen heading towards Kingsbury.

If you saw anyone or have any informatin that could help the police with their enquiries on these incidents, please call 101 and refer to the inc number stated.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/49715/Incidents-Reported-in-Hurley>

Contact Details

Warwickshire Direct, Coleshill Library and One Stop Shop
19 Parkfield Road
Coleshill
B46 3LD
101 (In an emergency always call 999)



