



# R B F & R S

## news release

14/07/2008

No: 35/F&R

### **Stay Safe In The Great Outdoors This Summer**

With the school holidays about to start and many festivals taking place around the country, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is urging people to think about fire safety when they are camping or caravanning.

Holidays and festivals should be a fun time for everyone but activities such as camping or caravanning can have added risks. Fires in tents and caravans can spread very quickly, so it is essential to site them at least six metres apart and away from parked cars.

To keep safe in the great outdoors this summer, follow these simple tips:

#### **USING GAS CYLINDERS**

- Keep flammable liquids (e.g. petrol and gas cylinders) outside and away from children.
- Only change cylinders when they are completely empty and store them away from caravans and vehicles.
- Don't use petrol or paraffin to light a solid fuel stove.
- Make sure the gas pipe connection is secure. If you suspect a leak, turn off the main cylinder valve.

#### **STAYING IN A CARAVAN**

- Fit and maintain a smoke alarm in your caravan.
- Take special care when cooking - don't leave pans unattended.
- Turn off all appliances before you go to bed.
- Never dry clothes over the stove.
- If you smoke, use large stable metal ashtrays - and *never* smoke in bed.
- Keep the caravan ventilated. Never block up air vents - it could be fatal.

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## **STAYING IN A TENT**

- Never use candles in or near a tent. Torches are much safer.
- Keep cooking appliances away from the tent walls.
- Never cook inside a small tent.
- Make sure you know how to escape by cutting your way out of the tent if there is a fire.
- Make sure everyone knows how to put out clothing that's on fire – **stop, drop and roll.**

## **IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT**

- Keep calm and get everyone out as quickly as you can.
- Call the Fire and Rescue Service and give the exact location.
- Give a map reference if necessary.
- If this is not possible, a landmark such as a farm or a pub will help locate you.

Jane Weller, Community Safety Officer, said: "We all really look forward to getting away on holiday, so make sure a fire doesn't ruin yours. Fire can destroy a tent in less than 60 seconds and on average 1,400 fires occur in caravans per year.

"Fire safety doesn't stop when you leave the house. By spending just a few minutes thinking about fire safety and taking sensible precautions when you're camping or caravanning, you can help to keep yourself and your friends and family safe."

**ENDS.**