



# R B F & R S

## news release

21/06/2010

No: 26/F&R

### **SUMMER FIRE SAFETY**

With the World Cup in full swing and the weather starting to heat up, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is reminding people to take extra care to avoid the risk of fire this summer. Make sure a fire doesn't ruin your summer by following these simple tips:

#### **Barbecue safety**

Barbecues are a great way to enjoy the summer weather but, like cooking in the kitchen, they can be a fire risk. To barbecue safely and avoid injury or damage to property, follow these tips:

- Never leave a lit barbecue unattended.
- Make sure your barbecue is well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste.
- Keep children and pets away from the cooking area.
- If you have a gas barbecue, always store cylinders outside.
- Use only approved lighter fuels – never petrol or paraffin – and only use on cold coals.
- Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies.
- After cooking, make sure the barbecue is fully extinguished and cold before disposing of the contents.
- Empty ashes onto bare garden soil, not into dustbins or wheelie bins. If they're hot they can melt the plastic and start a fire.

#### **Countryside safety**

Every year, fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside and wildlife habitats. Some fires are started deliberately but many are caused by carelessness. Don't let a fire be your fault - take these precautions when out and about in the countryside:

- Always extinguish cigarettes and other smoking materials properly.
- Never throw lit cigarette ends out of car windows – they can destroy whole fields of crops.
- Avoid open fires in the countryside. Only use barbecues in safe, designated areas and never leave them unattended.
- Don't leave bottles or glass lying around. Sunlight shining through glass can start a fire.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately.

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Jane Weller, Community Safety Officer, said: "We all enjoy spending time outdoors on a lovely summer's day but it's important to remember that fire safety doesn't stop when you leave the house.

"Taking just a few sensible steps to avoid the risk of fire can help to keep yourself and your family safe. Most of these tips are common sense but following them could prevent an enjoyable day turning into a disaster."

**ENDS.**