



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **DO YOU LIVE IN A THATCHED PROPERTY?**

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has produced a Thatch Information Pack to help people who live in thatched properties reduce their risk of fire in the home. Although fortunately thatch fires are not very common, when they do occur they can cause devastating damage.

Materials used most often in thatching today – long straw, combed wheat reed and water reed – all burn rapidly in a fire. Added to this, thatch is designed to repel water, which makes extinguishing fires difficult. Recent research shows that 90% of fires in thatched properties are caused by faults in the flue or chimney.

The Thatch Information Pack contains a thatched property safety guide, giving detailed information about how to prevent fire. It also includes information sheets, which thatch owners can use as a prompt to increase their preventative measures and write down useful information to assist firefighters in the event of a fire.

If you live in a thatched property and would like a copy of the Thatch Information Pack, please contact RBFRS on 0118 932 2734. You can also access the information online by visiting [www.rbfrs.co.uk/fs2\\_topics.html](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk/fs2_topics.html)

**ENDS.**