

Wildfires and fires in the open

Wildfires are very dangerous. They are **hard to predict**, spread quickly, and can change direction. They are a **threat** to people, wildlife, livestock, domestic animals and property. Wildfires are **uncontrolled** vegetation fires and may include crop fires, heathland and woodland fires.

Do your part - Preventing wildfires

- **Extinguish** cigarettes properly and don't throw cigarette ends on the ground.
- Keep children away from lighters and matches.
- Do not have **barbecues** in public spaces other than in **designated areas**.
- Only use barbecues on **level, fire resistant surfaces**.
- Avoid having barbecues or bonfires during especially **hot, dry spells**.
- If you have a barbecue or bonfire, always have a **bucket of water or sand** nearby.
- **Never leave** campfires or barbecues **unattended** and extinguish them after you have finished using them.
- **Dispose of glass bottles** properly, they can magnify sunlight, starting fires.

Protecting your property

- Don not allow flammable material to **build up** in your garden and keep any material **away** from walls and fences.
- Avoid using bonfires to dispose of garden waste. Use **bins provided by your local authority** instead.
- Make sure that flammable substances, such as petrol, are **stored safely**.
- Trim shrubs or trees that are **close to your house** and dispose of cuttings responsibly.
- **Position** any sheds or outbuildings **away from your house** to reduce the risk of a fire spreading between them.
- **Overgrown vegetation** can allow wildfires to spread quickly. However, proper maintenance will **reduce the risk**.
- If your property backs onto a greenspace, the **land manager is responsible** for reducing the risk of fire on that land. If you're concerned **talk to them**.



Know what to do by making an evacuation plan

- Make sure you and your family members **know what to do and where to go** in the event of a fire.
- Consider pets, domestic animals and a list of essentials you and your family **would need in an emergency**.
- **Talk to neighbours** about your evacuation plan, if appropriate.
- But don't delay – if in doubt, **get out, stay out and call 999**.



What to do if there is a wildfire near you?

In the event of a fire:

Stay Calm:

- Follow your evacuation plan and get to a safe space.
- If you are in your car, close all windows and vents.

Call 999:

- Ask for the fire and rescue service.
- Give as much detail as to the size and location of the fire as possible.
- Wait for firefighters to arrive in a safe location near a road or car park if possible.

Do not tackle the fire by yourself.

For more information on wildfire safety, visit rbfrs.co.uk/wildfires.

**ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

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Protect yourself from
fires in the open by being

#WildfireWise