



Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

BONFIRES SITING AND SUPERVISION

A guide to the safe siting and
supervision of bonfires

www.hantsfire.gov.uk

SITING AND CONSTRUCTION

Sites should be a minimum of 18m from buildings, crops, trees and other combustible items.

Additional allowance in distance may have to be made depending on the strength and direction of the wind.

Beware of overhead power cables, telephone lines, etc when deciding on the site for the bonfire.

Where the public will be involved, the bonfire should be roped off to a minimum distance of 6m around its perimeter.

Undergrowth on the site should be cleared, and any grass cut short in the vicinity of the bonfire.

The materials to be burnt on the fire should be carefully selected to exclude hazardous rubbish, e.g. aerosols, paint tins, drums and bottles which can explode, and tyres and foam filled furniture which give off volumes of black smoke and can fall off the fire when alight.

Care should be taken in the construction of the bonfire to ensure as far as possible that the bonfire is evenly built and will not fall over once alight.

SUPERVISION

The site is to be under the supervision of a responsible person.

An adequate number of stewards should be appointed (2 for every 500 people or part thereof) and should be clearly recognisable.

Consideration should be given to the provision of third party insurance cover.

Before lighting the bonfire, check the construction, and ensure that no children or animals are inside.

Flammable liquids should not be used to assist ignition.

Buckets of water and/or beaters should be available for tackling any small fires caused by flying brands.

The location of the nearest telephone and the arrangements for calling the fire service should be known to the responsible person and stewards.

Before leaving the site ensure that the fire is completely extinguished.

For Further Information Contact
Technical Fire Safety
Tel: 023 8064 4000 Ext. 4000
e-mail: tech.support@hantsfire.gov.uk