

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service



“Farm Related” Arson Reduction Advice

Stack Fires

There have been regular incidents of stack fires in Norfolk since last harvest.

This year hay and straw will be in particularly short supply and expensive. It is difficult to replace the lost material, and ties up fire service personnel which may well be needed elsewhere.

The following advice is intended to help to reduce the number of incidents.

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Siting of Stacks

- Try to site your stack away from the public roads, footpaths and anywhere the public have free access to. Try to have it where you can see it but they cannot.
- Do not make one huge stack. Instead split it down into smaller ones with a ten metre gap in between so that if a fire occurs you have a chance if it is safe, to move unburnt straw away.
- Do not put it near buildings, particularly those with livestock in; if it catches fire you may lose both.
- Do not store it near fuel, fertilizer, machinery or near to overhead cables
- Remove hay and straw from the harvest field as soon as possible. If it has to be left overnight block access routes to it.



Assess the Risks

- Look at your farm and try to see where an arsonist could strike. Repair gates and fences, and keep the gate shut when possible.
- Consider installing intruder alarm to the yard and outbuildings
- It is possible to alarm remote areas without mains electricity?
- Have signs requesting unauthorised persons to keep out.
- Have a fire action plan with your staff so everyone knows what is expected of them.

If a Fire Occurs

- Call the Fire and Rescue Service Immediately. Use the 999 system.
- Only tackle the fire yourself if it is safe to do so.
- Get someone out on to the road to direct the emergency services to the fire.
- Be prepared to evacuate livestock if necessary.
- Have a teleporter or similar ready to help.
- Know where open water supplies are available.

Try to

- Keep children away from straw and haystacks. Talk to your police and safer neighbourhood team if children will not keep away so they can talk to the parents.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police, farmwatch or crime stoppers. It will be dealt with confidentially.

Advice

- Is freely available from the Fire Service, Farmwatch Ltd and the police.
- By working together with you we hope to minimise the incidents of arson in our county to the benefit of everyone.

