



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE**

# Farm Safety



PASSIONATE ABOUT  
**CHANGING & SAVING LIVES**

Every year we attend around 50 agricultural fires – such incidents cost the agricultural community in the South West an estimated £24million, which is a quarter of the total estimated cost (£102million) of farm fires in the UK.

Most of these fires involve farm machinery or buildings, often with the added loss of large amounts of stock, straw, hay, chemicals and even livestock. Arson, lightning and electrical faults are the main causes of farm fires across the UK.

Many farms now offer a diverse range of services, including bed & breakfast accommodation, camping, farm shops, visitor centres and stabling, to name a few. These activities all pose differing fire risks and should be risk assessed to ensure preventative and protective measures are suitable and sufficient.



## Fire safety on your farm is your responsibility

Recent changes in legislation require all businesses to complete and record a fire risk assessment, and this includes all farm buildings.

Five-step Risk Assessment:

- 1 Identify any hazards** – sources of ignition, sources of fuel and dangerous substances (chemicals, fertilisers).
- 2 Identify any people at risk** – people who work for you, holidaymakers, young people, firefighters, other emergency personnel.
- 3 Evaluate, remove, reduce and protect from risk** – Evaluate risk of fire occurring. Evaluate risk to people from fire. Remove/reduce any fire hazards. Remove or reduce risks to people, this could be by installing smoke alarms, firefighting equipment, emergency lighting, protected escape routes.
- 4 Record, plan, inform, instruct and train** – record fire risk assessment and emergency plan, instruct staff and anyone who may be affected. Provide training.
- 5 Review** – review your fire risk assessment on a regular basis, and make changes as required.



To find out more about fire safety risk assessments, and what you must do for each of the steps, visit the following websites:



Animal premises and stables:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-risk-assessment-animal-premises-and-stables>



Sleeping accommodation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-risk-assessment-sleeping-accommodation>



Making your small paying accommodation safe from fire:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-your-small-paying-guest-accommodation-safe-from-fire>

You can help prevent fires by making fire safety a part of your business plan.

## Dangerous substances and Notification and Marking of Sites (NAMOS) regulations

By law, you must tell people on your farm, including workers, firefighters and other emergency services personnel, if there is a possibility that dangerous substances are involved in a fire. They will need to know the location of any:

- Bottled gas, especially acetylene and LPG, and bulk diesel or petrol. Slurry and any other animal waste. Guns and munitions. Asbestos in the materials the buildings are made of.
- You should be able to provide material safety data sheets for all chemicals used on your farm. Ammonium nitrate fertilisers, sodium chlorates, pesticides or any other agrochemicals and poisons.
- If more than 25 tonnes of any dangerous substances are stored, you must provide the relevant hazard warning symbol.



Dangerous Substance



Oxidising Agent



Flammable Liquid



Toxic Substance



Corrosive Substance



Compressed Gas



In compliance with the Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990 (NAMOS), any person in control of any site or premises where a total combined quantity of 25 tonnes or more of dangerous substances are used or stored, or are to become used or stored, must give written notification to both the Fire and Rescue Service and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). A dangerous substance is any substance which is dangerous for conveyance within the meaning of the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging) Regulations 1993.

The HSE has produced a leaflet for duty holders responsible for sites storing dangerous substances as defined by the NAMOS regulations.

## Controlled burning

If you are doing any kind of controlled burning such as burning rubbish, please contact us:



0306 799 0019 or



[www.dwfire.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/contact-us) and fill in the online form.



## Arson

Arson is responsible for half of all fires involving farm buildings. As part of your fire risk assessment, you should do a survey of your farm buildings and identify any that are at particular risk from arson. You can help reduce the risk of arson by:

- Maintaining a good standard of security for all outbuildings.
- Preventing easy access to fuel and chemical storage areas.
- Providing, repairing or replacing damaged fencing or gates.
- Replacing or re-siting security and warning notices.
- Installing intruder sensor and security lighting.
- Using dogs or geese to give early warning of intruders, though guard dogs must not be allowed to roam freely.



## Farm fire safety

There are some simple steps you can take to minimise the risk of fire on your farm.

- Store petrol, diesel, fuels and chemicals in clearly labelled approved containers. They should be stored separately and securely in locations away from other farm buildings.
- Check storage areas for any ignition sources such as electrics, machinery and smoking.
- Keep areas clean of rubbish, oily rags, firewood and other fuel sources.
- Service your farm machinery regularly, to ensure it is free from mechanical defects that could start fires.
- Clean all machinery regularly to ensure belly pans and spaces around motors are free from oil, dust, grease, straw and hay.
- Bale and stack hay when it's dried to prevent spontaneous ignition. Many barn fires are caused by storing damp or wet hay.
- Carry out welding and angle grinding in clear areas only.

- Have safe areas for smoking and dispose of cigarettes.
- If you need to have a bonfire, minimise the risk of it spreading to barns and other buildings by planning the location carefully and making sure the fire is not left unattended.
- Maintain and clearly identify all firefighting equipment. Make sure it's easy to access, check that it's in good working order, and have it serviced regularly.
- Help us find your farm quickly - make sure the entrance is clearly signed.



Remember when calling the emergency services follow the information below – ETHANE.

<b>E</b>	<b>Exact location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Download the what3words app to easily identify location or use the standard OS Grid reference</li> </ul>
<b>T</b>	<b>Type of incident</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clearly state the nature of the emergency or incident</li> <li>● Provide a brief overview of what has happened or is currently happening</li> </ul>
<b>H</b>	<b>Hazards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify any immediate threats, risks or hazards posed by the situation e.g. water/slurry tanks, chemicals/fertilisers, animals, buildings, straw/hay storage or cylinders</li> <li>● What animals are around who may be impacted by the arrival of the emergency services? Can they be secured away from danger? Horses are the main risk, especially if the air ambulance is there</li> </ul>
<b>A</b>	<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best routes for access/egress - is the location given the best access point for emergency vehicles?</li> <li>● Are there any restrictions? Road/gate widths, locked gates, state of the ground - flooding, ploughed field</li> <li>● what3words location of access/egress points e.g. gates</li> </ul>
<b>N</b>	<b>Number of casualties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are there any injuries? Nature of those injuries</li> <li>● Are any animals/humans trapped/at risk?</li> </ul>
<b>E</b>	<b>Emergency services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Which emergency services do you need? Are any emergency services present?</li> <li>● Have you called your vet if animals involved?</li> </ul>

For more information on fire safety for your farm, visit our website – [www.dwfire.org.uk](http://www.dwfire.org.uk)

# Fire safety checklist

Use our fire safety checklist to see what else you need to do to reduce the risk of fire at your farm.

	Yes	No	Action now	Action later
1 Do you understand what you have to do to comply with the law?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Have you completed a fire safety risk assessment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Have you recorded the findings of your fire risk assessment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Have you acted on the findings of your fire risk assessment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Is fire safety part of your farm business plan?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 Have you done everything reasonably practicable to reduce the risk of fire?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7 Do you have insurance to fully protect you and your business against fire?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8 Do all your employees know what they must do in the event of a fire?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9 Have you taken suitable measures to protect guests or visitors from fire on your farm?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 Do you leave fires unattended? In our experience unattended bonfires spread to barns and other farm buildings causing unnecessary damage.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11 Do you carefully plan all burning to minimise the risks of fire escaping?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12 Have you taken steps to prevent hay and straw barn fires?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13 Are your fuel supplies and oils stored safely?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14 Are your chemicals stored safely in clearly labelled containers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15 Do you have chemical data information sheets available in case of an emergency?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16 Are your power lines clear of trees and branches?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17 Do you have clear access to any open water supplies like lakes or ponds that could be used for firefighting?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18 Do you have battery-powered radios handy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19 Is there adequate access to your property for large fire vehicles?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20 Have you assessed the environmental impact of a fire?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21 In the event of a fire do you have a plan?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>