

Arson Risk Assessment and Prevention - for Farms

Don't become an arson statistic!

Each year in the UK on average around 1,600 farm buildings and 85,000 areas of grassland are destroyed by fire. Around 40% of these fires are started deliberately, many as an act of mindless vandalism.

A serious fire on a farm can affect the financial stability of even the most well run business. It is estimated that up to 80% of businesses are seriously affected following a major fire¹.



Farms are particularly vulnerable to arson: their isolated location, open boundaries, and ready fuels such as readily ignitable hay or straw make them an easy target. Whilst arson attacks on farms and small holdings may be difficult to eliminate, a number of simple precautions can increase safety.

Arson on a farm within a small community can be particularly devastating, especially when the community is dependent on the farm for employment. The distances the Fire Service may have to travel are likely to be far greater in rural areas and the possibility of delayed calls to the Fire Service due to the remote nature of the fire may also lead to the fire spreading more extensively.

¹ London Chamber of Commerce statistics 2003

Signal Crime	Yes	No
1. Is there a history of vandalism or fire setting in the area around the farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is trespass a problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage		
1. Is hay and straw removed from the field as soon as possible after harvesting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is hay and straw stored separately from other farm buildings particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Is hay and straw stored in stacks of reasonable size spaced at least 10 metres apart?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is hay and straw stored separately from livestock housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Security	Yes	No
1. Are petrol, diesel and other fuels stored in secure areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are fuel storage tank outlets padlocked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are fertilisers and pesticides kept under lock and key?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the security of all farm buildings maintained at all times?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is security lighting provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are the farm buildings fitted with a fully operational intruder alarm with a monitored link to an alarm receiving station?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is all refuse disposed of safely and on a regular basis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire Safety Management	Yes	No
1. Are all unoccupied areas regularly checked to ensure they are safe and secure and that there is no unnecessary accumulation of combustible materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

To reduce the risk of an arson attack any of the highlighted areas receiving a tick will require a control measure to be put in place. The outcomes of this arson risk assessment should be included in the overall fire risk assessment and action plan for the farm.

For **FREE** fire safety advice, visit our website or contact your local Community Fire Protection Office.

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01244 322222

Crewe
01270 213246



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