

Bonfire Safety

- ▶ Site the bonfire a safe distance away from anything that it may damage, such as houses, garages, sheds, trees, hedges or crops in fields, fences and overhead cables
- ▶ Do not burn rubbish that gives off toxic fumes or smoke such as foam-filled furniture, aerosols, plastics, tyres, tins of paint or solvents
- ▶ Check the bonfire is stable and will not fall to one side. Also check that there are no animals or children near or inside the bonfire before lighting
- ▶ Do not use flammable liquids such as paraffin, diesel or petrol to light the fire - try firelighters
- ▶ Never leave the fire unattended
- ▶ Ensure that sufficient water, sand or soil is available to use in case of an emergency
- ▶ Pour water on the bonfire embers and always ensure the fire has been completely extinguished before leaving the site



What to do if troubled by bonfires

If you believe that smoke from a nearby bonfire is causing you a nuisance, the first and often best means of action is to politely inform the person responsible. You may then be able to suggest that it would be better burnt at a more convenient time to you both.

If this does not solve the problem, keep a record of the date and time of the bonfire and its effect on you. Please then send the completed record to the Environmental Protection Team at the address below.

Officers will assess your records and may visit to determine if a statutory nuisance is being caused. An abatement notice may be served if advice is ignored. Ultimately, the Council may take legal action and on summary conviction a court can fine the person responsible.

For further advice and information contact:

**Suffolk Coastal District Council,
Melton Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1AU**

Telephone: 01394 444624

e-mail:

environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

**Web: [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/
envprotection/smoke](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/envprotection/smoke)**

**Environmental Protection Team
and Recycling Officers**

**Large print versions
of this leaflet are available**



Suffolk Coastal ... where quality of life counts



Guidance for Lighting Bonfires



Guidance For Lighting Bonfires

Smoke may be considered a Statutory Nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Bonfires produce smoke, toxic chemicals and can cause annoyance to neighbours.

This leaflet has been designed to help you:

- ▶ **If you are having a bonfire**
- ▶ **To explain what you can do if a bonfire affects you**

Do you need to burn your rubbish?

Much of the rubbish we create can be recycled.

- ▶ Green garden waste and some kitchen waste can be put in a compost bin.
- ▶ Every home should have a brown wheelie bin for all green garden waste and all cooked and uncooked kitchen waste. You can have an additional brown wheelie bin for an annual service charge.
- ▶ For more information about recycling please contact our Recycling Team on 01394 444000.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

- Felixstowe Site – Carr Road, Felixstowe
- Foxhall Site – Foxhall Road, Foxhall
- Leiston Site – Lovers Lane, Leiston

These sites are controlled by Suffolk County Council (Helpline – 01473 264796) and are available for the free disposal of domestic waste e.g. cookers, washing machines, beds and garden refuse.

- You can pay Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd. to collect and dispose of your ***BULKY or HEAVY** household items. - Call: 01394 444000.

Do not dump refuse or other waste on unauthorised sites such as open spaces, recycling sites, roadways or lay-bys. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence for which the maximum fine is £20,000.

*items that do not come under this scheme e.g. cast iron bath, oil tank, etc can be quoted for separately

Bonfire Sense

- ▶ Lighting a bonfire should be a last resort when there is no other suitable means of disposal
- ▶ Only wood-based garden refuse and readily combustible materials should be burned. These should be left for a period to dry out so the fire will burn quickly and with minimal smoke
- ▶ No materials should be burned that will produce dark smoke and toxic substances e.g. plastic, oil and rubber
- ▶ Never burn household rubbish - most materials are unsuitable for disposal in this way
- ▶ Do not start bonfires in built up areas - this is much more likely to cause a nuisance
- ▶ Consider your neighbours

If you must burn garden refuse, the number of bonfires should be kept to an absolute minimum and the following should be considered:

- Tell your neighbours when you intend to light a fire so they can take any precautions to safeguard their comfort
- Please do not start a bonfire if neighbours have washing out to dry
- Be prepared to alter the time you light your bonfire to suit those who will be affected by it
- Please do not light bonfires on Bank Holidays or other times when neighbours might be enjoying their own gardens



Be considerate

