

Good advice on camping and barbecuing



Summer and sun, camping and barbecuing. A camp fire at night or a bed of coal to cook on. But if the fire gets out of control then it becomes dangerous. How can you avoid this happening?

Outdoor life

Lovers of the outdoor life enjoy making a fire out in the open while others might prefer to take an outdoor stove with a wind shield to use if the weather gets bad. Below are some tips on how to prevent fires out in the countryside.

Open fires

First of all it's important to find a suitable place to light a fire. Quite often you can find outdoor fireplaces in the archipelago and along footpaths.

If there are no outdoor fireplaces then find a peaceful and protected area as close to water as possible. Dig a hole or place stones around the hearth and keep the fire small. Lighting a fire directly on rocks is forbidden.

If it's windy then the sparks may spread. Make sure that sparks cannot be blown in towards land or forest. Extinguish the fire thoroughly before leaving

it and make sure the lighting of fires is permitted. Lighting fires is prohibited during a fire risk forecast 5.

If the fire happens to spread

Call rescue services on 112. Try to stop the fire spreading in the direction of the wind. Use branches from small spruce or juniper trees with twigs left on only at the top 1 metre. If possible dampen the branches. Don't beat the fire too heavily as this will cause sparks to fly and the fire to gain speed. Sweep all burning material towards the fire while pressing the branch down on the ground so as to stifle the fire. Throw aside twigs and remove any moss in front of the fire.

When you are going to cook outside

• Never have a barbecue or an open flame in a tent or a caravan awning. A tent quickly goes up in flames and glowing

goal and other wood fuel give off toxic carbon monoxide.

- Place the barbecue on a flat and incombustible surface at least one metre from the tent or the caravan.
- Keep fire-lighting fluid at least 3 metres from the barbecue.
- Never leave a barbecue unattended.
- Place used coal in a designated place. Used fuel from a coal barbecue can retain heat for up to 3 days.
- Never pour fuel into the stove's burner until you have ascertained that the flame has burned itself out and the burner has cooled down – otherwise the fuel in the bottle may flare up and cause serious burn injuries. Burn injuries should be cooled with water for ten minutes or more. If your clothes catch fire lay down on the ground and roll around from side to side until the fire is out.

ALWAYS CALL 112 IN THE EVENT OF FIRE

The Swedish Fire Protection Association is a member organization which works towards making Sweden a safer place. Through information and training we help people, companies and organizations to take responsibility for fire prevention. 08-588 474 00. www.brandskyddsforeningen.se