



CORNWALL
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
A service of Cornwall Council



Farm fire safety

The number of farm fires is on the increase -
don't let your farm become a statistic!

Working together to make Cornwall safer

Farm fire safety

Every year we attend around **36 farm building fires**. Most of these buildings are completely destroyed by fire, often with the loss of large amounts of stock, straw, hay, farm machinery, chemicals and even livestock.

What you're required to do by law

Fire safety legislation applies to all farm buildings where people work, including packing sheds, milking parlours, barns, holiday lets and farm houses used for providing bed and breakfast.

If you employ five or more people, you are required **by law** to carry out a fire risk assessment of your farm buildings and record the findings.

Fire safety is your responsibility, and if you don't obey the law you could **lose your business or be prosecuted and face a fine or two year prison sentence.**

If you need more information about fire safety, contact Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service on **01726 223620** or email **protection@fire.cornwall.gov.uk**

Fire safety risk assessments

To find out more about fire safety risk assessments and what you have to do for each of the steps on the next page, visit the following websites:

Animal premises and stables

www.cornwall.gov.uk/firesafetyguides#Animal

Sleeping accommodation

www.cornwall.gov.uk/firesafetyguides#Sleeping

Or you can buy copies of the guides in bookshops.

All businesses must complete a fire risk assessment.



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

There are five steps to completing a fire safety risk assessment:

Step 1 Identify any hazards, including:

- **Sources of ignition** – these could include things like welding or grinding equipment, damp hay, naked flames, munitions, poorly serviced electrics, smoking.
- **Sources of fuel** – this is anything that could burn, such as petrol, diesel, LPG, hay, straw.
- **Dangerous substances** – these could be chemicals, fertilisers, poisons, asbestos and so on.

Step 2 Identify any people at risk, including:

- Anyone near your farm buildings.
- People who work for you or who are on your premises.
- Young people.
- Fire fighters and other emergency service personnel responding to a fire.

Step 3 Evaluate, remove, reduce and protect from risk

- Evaluate the risk of fire occurring.
- Evaluate the risk to people from fire.
- Remove or reduce any fire hazards.
- Remove or reduce any risks to people – this could be by installing smoke and fire alarms, fire fighting equipment, escape routes, lighting, signs or notices or carrying out maintenance on electrics and equipment.

Step 4 Record, plan, inform, instruct and train

- Record any significant findings and the action you have taken, even if you're not required to by law.
- Prepare an emergency plan.
- Inform and instruct anyone who might be affected.
- Provide training.

Step 5 Review

- Review your risk assessment on a regular basis and make changes if you need to.

If a fire breaks out

- **Call the Fire and Rescue Service immediately.**
- Tell the operator:
 - > **Where the fire is** - give the full postal address including the postcode and a six figure grid reference if you can.
 - > **Exactly what is involved** - especially any chemicals that are involved or likely to become involved in the fire.
 - > If the **access to the fire site** will be difficult for fire engines or will need four wheel drive.
 - > If there will be **problems accessing water** supplies on the fire site.
- Only attempt to fight the fire if it is safe to do so.
- Send someone to the farm entrance to direct the Fire and Rescue Service to the fire. Ideally they should have a torch and be wearing high visibility clothing so they are easy to see.
- Clear access routes to the fire site for the fire engines.
- Move livestock if necessary or be prepared to move them in case the fire spreads.
- Be prepared to use farm machinery to assist the Fire and Rescue Service.

Controlled burning

If you are doing any kind of controlled burning such as burning rubbish, please contact Cornwall Fire Service on **01209 722860**



“Half of all fires involving farm buildings can be attributed to arson.”

Dangerous substances

Under Chemical Regulations you **must** tell people on your farm, including workers, fire fighters 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**, for more details visit: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/chemical-classification/labelling-packaging/hazard-symbols-hazard-pictograms.htm>



Dangerous
Substance



Oxidizing
Agent



Flammable
Liquid



Toxic
Substance



Corrosive
Substance



Compressed
Gas

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.

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 dry** to prevent spontaneous combustion. In Cornwall nearly a quarter of all barn fires are caused by storing damp or wet hay.
- Carry out welding and angle grinding only in clear areas.
- Have safe areas for smoking and dispose of cigarettes and matches properly.
- 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 fire fighting equipment**. Make sure it's easy to access, check that it's in good working order and have it serviced regularly.



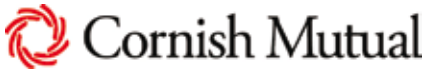
“Help us find your farm quickly - make sure the entrance is clearly signed.”

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 adequate and accessible water supplies for fire fighting?	<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"/>

This leaflet has been produced in partnership by Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, Cornish Mutual and NFU Mutual to help farms comply with fire law.



Cornish Mutual is delighted to be involved in Cornwall Fire and Rescue's initiative to help reduce the risk of farm fires. **Helping our Members to keep themselves and their livelihoods safe is very important to us.**

Established over 100 years ago by a group of Cornish farmers, we continue to keep servicing our Members at the centre of everything we do. We offer farmers a local, personal insurance service and straightforward claims service. This is delivered through our Insurance Inspectors who, by living and working in their area, are better placed to understand the challenges facing farming today. **Our Insurance Inspectors do not work on commission and are happy to offer a free review of farm insurances.**

To find out who your local Insurance Inspector is visit:
www.cornishmutual.co.uk or call **0345 017 5513**



NFU Mutual

NFU Mutual is proud to be supporting the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, **helping farmers to be safer and reduce the risk of fire.**

As the UK's leading rural insurer with over 300 branches nationwide, 5 being in Cornwall. NFU Mutual celebrated its centenary in 2010 and its principles remain the same today as they did 100 years ago, offering insurance cover at a fair price, with a first class personal service.

NFU Mutual can offer a range of insurances for farming including tractor and commercial vehicle insurance, but also Risk Management Services and Inheritance Tax Planning.

Risk management services are provided by NFU Mutual Risk Management Services Limited.

NFU Mutual Financial Consultants advise on NFU Mutual products and in special circumstances those of other providers.

To contact your local NFU Mutual agent or to request a quote visit our website at **www.nfumutual.co.uk**

NFU Mutual is The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982) Registered in England. Registered Office: Tiddington Road, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 7BJ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. A member of the Association of British Insurers.



Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service

St Austell Fire Station, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4LD

Tel: **01726 72582 (9am-5pm) / 0800 3581 999 (24hr)**

Email: **protection@fire.cornwall.gov.uk** Web: **www.cornwall.gov.uk/businessfiresafety**