

Throughout the ages, fire has fascinated Man.

A crackling fire adds spice to outdoor life. But it can also cause untold damage if it is not handled in the right way.

The right of public access does not give you the right to light a fire – only the possibility of doing so under safe circumstances.

**If you require
assistance in
the case of an
emergency:**

Call 112

For further information contact the local authority emergency services.



Swedish Environment Protection Agency
SE-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel +46 (0)8 698 10 00. Fax +46 (0)8 698 15 15
Internet <http://www.environ.se/alleman.htm>
e-mail kundtjanst@environ.se



Swedish Rescue Services Agency
SE-651 80 Karlstad, Sweden
Tel +46 (0)54 13 50 00. Fax +46 (0)54 13 56 00
Internet <http://www.srv.se>

Order no: R40-142/01
Tel +46 (0)54 13 57 10. Fax +46 (0)54 13 56 05

Lighting fires and the right of public access



Photo: Mauritius

This is what you should think about
when you light a fire.



Periodic prohibition on the lighting of fires

During the summer, it is occasionally prohibited to light fires in the countryside due to the high risk of the fire spreading. Information about when there is a high risk of fires and when the lighting of fires is prohibited is issued in conjunction with news broadcasts on local radio, in traffic reports and in the local press. Information is normally also available at campsites, tourist information offices and from the municipality's rescue services. Some local authorities set up recorded messages informing about the fire risk. The telephone number can be found under Fire Prevention or Rescue Services in the green section of the telephone directory. When the lighting of fires is prohibited, all open fires are forbidden. Local variations are notified by the municipality's rescue services.

If you light a fire

- You should preferably use a camping stove, but if you do light a fire, it is important to choose the right place such as a gravel or sand patch with access to water, which can be used to extinguish the fire. Be aware of the wind, which could carry sparks into the forest. Either dig a hollow or lay a circle of stones around the fire, and keep the fire itself small.
- Do not light a fire if the wind is strong! Do not light a fire on peat or moss. There is also a huge fire risk in earthy, forested areas. The fire could smoulder in

the ground for a long time before suddenly flaring up. Avoid lighting a fire near to ant-hills or tree stumps.

- Do not light a fire directly on or next to flat rocks. They become discoloured and could crack.
- The fireplace is not the place for refuse. Do not put any refuse which cannot be burnt into the fire. Dispose of it in the correct way.
- You may use branches, twigs and pine cones lying on the ground as fuel for the fire. You must not damage live trees.

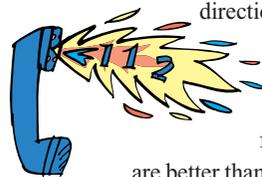
How to extinguish the fire

Let the fire burn down completely. Extinguish it properly with water, then poke it so that the embers die out. Dig up the earth under the ashes until there are no signs of glowing embers or smoke left. A small trowel and a container for carrying water are useful items to carry with you.

If the fire spreads

If possible, alert the fire brigade by phoning 112 if you lose control over the fire.

Try to prevent the fire from spreading in the direction of the wind. Use bunches of branches from small pine or juniper trees which can be broken off up to about 1 metre from the top of the tree. These are better than leafy branches. It is best to wet the branches. Do not beat at the fire with large strokes as the sparks will fly around and spread the fire. Sweep burning pieces towards the fire, whilst at the same time pressing the branches against the ground to smother the flames. Throw brushwood and twigs out of the way, and pull up moss in the path of the fire.



If your clothes catch fire

- If your clothes catch fire throw yourself quickly to the ground and roll around.
- If someone else's clothes catch fire, lay the person on the ground. Smother the fire using a blanket or jacket. Cover from the head downwards so that the flames are prevented from reaching the face. Remember that nylon

and similar fabrics can flare up or melt and cause even worse injuries.

- Cool down burning clothes and burn injuries with cold water. Do not remove clothes that are stuck to the skin. Continue cooling the injuries until the pain stops (about 10 minutes). Seek medical attention.



Be careful when camping

- Never have an open fire or glowing coals inside the tent or under the canopy. A tent can quickly catch fire, giving off highly toxic gases. Always have a knife handy so that you can cut your way out and escape quickly.
- Never pour fuel into the camping stove's burner until you have made sure the flame has burnt out and the burner has cooled down, otherwise the fuel could flare up and you run the risk of severe burns.
- At the campsite it is important to keep a proper distance between tents, caravans and motor homes to reduce the risk of fire – if possible, at least 4 metres.
- Grills, hot plates etc. should not be closer than 1 metre to the tent.
- Check that all pipes and connections for the bottled gas are undamaged and properly tightened to prevent any leakage.
- Take note of where fire fighting equipment and alarm systems are located.



The symbols indicate the location of fire-fighting equipment.