



West Berkshire
Countryside Society

WBCS – Fires on sites

Recommendations and safe practice notes.

Based on BTCV Generic Risk Assessments published 2008

First draft of this doc. September 2018 by CG

Updates on -

1 Preparation for a fire	3. Managing the fire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that a risk assessment has been carried out and the findings recorded. (<i>see the SPRA</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> All workers on site to be made aware of and comply with the controls identified. <input type="checkbox"/> In case of emergency, be able to provide the emergency services with adequate information. (<i>see WBCS task SPRA</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Designated first aider and first aid kit, including eye wash, to be on site. No first aider=no work <input type="checkbox"/> Erect warning signs and barriers if the public are likely to be affected. <input type="checkbox"/> On ecologically sensitive sites fires are often restricted to a limited number of locations and require soil protection in the form of metal sheeting or other barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The fire should be managed by a nominated “Fire master”. <input type="checkbox"/> The fire master has the final word on the shape and size of the fire as well as the orientation of the material being loaded. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that at least one person is always attending the fire <input type="checkbox"/> Fire should be kept as small as possible to do the job <input type="checkbox"/> Keep the immediate area around fire clear of tools and materials <input type="checkbox"/> Fires should be turned in and made safe at the end of the day. If the owner/agent is on site, they may well choose to do this later
2. Location of the fire	4. Personal safety
<p>To avoid the spread of fire - fires should not to be lit: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> On peat soil – ideally on non-organic surface <input type="checkbox"/> In strong/gusty wind conditions <input type="checkbox"/> In very dry or drought conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Directly under trees <p>To avoid smoke hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fire not lit near roads or occupied buildings <input type="checkbox"/> As far as possible site fire to be downwind of workers <input type="checkbox"/> Use hazard signs to exclude people from obscured area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PPE -To avoid burning embers and flying debris those working near the fire should wear head protection, eye shields, long sleeves, trousers and protective footwear <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid working in significant smoke or for significant periods of time <input type="checkbox"/> Workers should aim to work up wind of the fire