



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency

Lighting fires and the right of access to private land

Remember this when lighting fires



Fire has always fascinated man. A blazing camp fire adds that extra touch to the outdoor life, but it can also spread devastation if not handled correctly. The Swedish right of access does not in itself give you the right to light fires only the option to light a fire in safe conditions.

Sometimes fire lighting prohibitions apply

In some places a fire lighting prohibition can apply, for example, in nature reserves. See local announcements for possible prohibitions.

Sometimes a fire lighting prohibition can apply because of the great risk of fire. Information about fire risks and fire lighting prohibitions can usually be found in the local press and are broadcast in conjunction with local radio news bulletins. You can generally also obtain information on municipal and county websites, at camping sites, tourist offices, or from the local fire brigade. Some of these also have recorded telephone announcements on current fire risks. Where a fire lighting prohibition applies all forms of open fire are prohibited, even those at places specifically set up for open fires.

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 e.g. a patch of gravel or sand. Don't light fires on turf, moss or other soil-rich woodland. Because on such ground the fire can smoulder for a long time before suddenly flaring up. Also avoid lighting a fire near ant hills and tree stumps, these are difficult to extinguish if they catch fire. Do not light a fire directly on or beside flat rocks (bedrock) because they can become discoloured and split.
- Limit your fireplace by digging a hollow in the gravel or placing stones around it, and keep the fire itself small.
- Make sure there is water to extinguish the fire.
- Be aware of the wind, which can carry sparks into woodland and onto dry grass. Do not light a fire if the wind is strong!
- Use only suitable fuel, e.g. dead branches, twigs and cones that are lying loose on the ground. You are not allowed to use living trees. Do not burn rubbish – the fireplace is not the place for that.
- If you are using a disposable (one-time) grill it is important to position it correctly. Disposable grills get very warm underneath and can cause fires in wooden benches and tables and in ground vegetation. They should therefore always be placed on a non-flammable surface, e.g. gravel or sand. Be thorough when extinguishing disposable grills and don't leave them lying around in the countryside.

Extinguish like this

Let the fire burn itself out completely. Extinguish it properly with water and then poke around in 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 under the fireplace. A small shovel and a container for water are useful items to have with you.

If the fire spreads

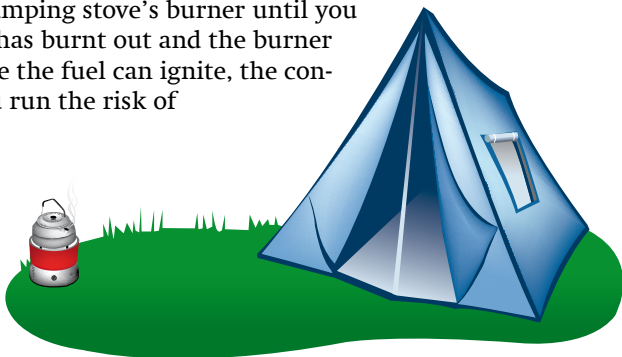
Call the fire brigade on the emergency **services number 112**. Try to prevent the fire from spreading in the direction of the wind. Use bunches of branches from small pine or juniper trees, along the length of which, except for the last metre, you have stripped off the twigs. These are better than leafy branches. It is best to wet the bunches. Do not beat at the fire with large strokes as the sparks will fly around and spread the fire. Sweep material that is already burning in towards the fire, while at the same time pressing the branches against the ground to smother the flames. Throw branches and twigs out of the way, and pull up moss and other combustible material from out of 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, and smother the fire using, for example, a blanket or jacket, which you lay on the person starting at the head and moving downwards so that the flames are prevented from reaching the face. Remember that some synthetic materials can flare up or melt and cause even worse injuries. Immediately cool down burns with cold water
- Do not remove clothes that are stuck to the skin. Continue cooling the burns until the pain stops, about 10 minutes. Seek medical attention.

Be careful when camping

- Never have an open fire or glowing coals inside a tent or under a canopy. The smoke from fires contains very toxic gases.
- 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 can ignite, the container can explode and you run the risk of severe burns.
- A tent easily catches fire. Ensure that grills, hot plates etc. are at a safe distance from the tent material.



A cooperative campaign between



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

SE-651 81 Karlstad Tel. +46 (0) 771-240 240 www.msb.se

Order number MSB 0045-09 Revised November 2010