

Camping and barbecuing

Summertime, fun in the sun, camping and barbecuing... A campfire under the night sky or glowing embers for cooking your food... A fire that is under control is very pleasant. However, a campfire burning out of control is a wildfire. How can this be prevented?



OUTDOOR LIFE

People who love the great outdoors enjoy having campfires, whereas others prefer to bring camping stoves with wind protection in case the weather deteriorates. People who spend their holidays in caravans or on boats often have a gas stove that uses LPG. Some fire safety tips are provided below.

OPEN FIRES

First of all you need a good place to light a campfire. Barbecue sites are often located in the archipelago and along hiking trails.

If none is available, choose a calm site protected from the wind and as close to the water as possible. Prepare the site with sand and stones. Never light a fire directly on rock.

If it is windy, there may be a risk of sparks flying. Ensure that no sparks can blow inland or towards wooded areas. No fires may be lit if a fire risk forecast of 5 has been issued. Extinguish your fire before leaving the site!

SPIRIT STOVES

There are environmentally friendly fluids that do not create soot or give the food a bad taste. Fill the spirit burner up to two-thirds. Never refill it until it is fully extinguished and has cooled.

LPG

LPG must be handled very carefully. Leakage may cause an explosion or fire. New equipment purchased after 1995 must be

CE marked. Ventilation is important if using LPG equipment in a cottage, boat or caravan. A smelly substance, mercaptan, is added to the LPG to make leakage easier to detect. Turn the device off and air the room as soon as you smell the slightest amount of this substance. Leakages can be pinpointed with the help of a 'leakage spray'. Make sure that the leak is sealed and test it carefully.

For more information about LPG, see the publication 'Think first and light later: LPG in your cottage, caravan, camper and leisure craft' from the Swedish Gas Association. The Swedish Rescue Services Agency also provides instructions and general advice for the use of LPG in caravans.

SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors are an inexpensive form of life insurance in caravans and on boats. They warn you of hazardous smoke.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

For camping, caravans and boats, we recommend a powder extinguisher of at least three kilos. The extinguisher should be certified by SIS (The Swedish Standards Institute) or another SWEDAC accredited certification body. We recommend a minimum of A class 13 and B class 113, but it is always safest to have an extinguisher with the highest standard of effectiveness.

A campfire burning out of control is a wildfire. Don't wait to sound the alarm – ring 112 immediately.

IF YOU SEE A FIRE, ALWAYS RING 112

The Swedish Fire Protection Association is a membership organisation that works to promote fire safety in Sweden. We help private individuals, businesses and other organisations to take their own responsibility for fire safety through information and training initiatives. Telephone +46 (0)8-588 474 00. www.svbf.se