



National Association of Re-enactment Societies

## Guidance note - fires

### Overview

It is a matter of Health and Safety Law that every person is responsible for their own safety, the safety of their colleagues, and must ensure that their activities do not present a hazard to visitor and guest to the site.

It is recommended that each member group appoint a Safety Officer whose decision is FINAL on all matters concerning safety at the site and that his/her decisions should be fully supported by the group's management and implemented by ALL members of their group.

It is recommended that you make your Sponsor aware of their responsibilities regarding venue and site safety; that a Senior Member or Safety Officer inspect the site before the event and that the group's requirements to ensure the site's safety are reported to the Sponsor preferably in writing, prior to the event; and in liaison with the emergency services.

### Guidelines On Fire Safety At Campsites

It is recommended that the camp be properly laid out with adequate access for Emergency Services vehicles.

It is recommended that Fire Points should be provided with an adequate supply of sand and water in containers, and consideration should also be given to Fire Extinguishers. There should be an agreed and recognisable system of warning signals for fire and other emergencies on site (e.g. claxons, horns or bells). There should also be an agreed 'All Clear' signal to end the incident. The alarm should be raised as soon as possible after the fire's discovery - but evacuation of the immediate area must take precedence. The agreed signal can be augmented with the verbal warning "Fire. Fire".

It is recommended that flammable substances be stored in a safe place, away from living accommodation or sources of heat or flame, with the exception of small amount of gas etc, for personal cooking.

It is recommended that tents be pitched no less than 2 metres apart. Adverse conditions may mean it is necessary to increase this distance.

Catering units should be no less than 10 meters apart and at least 10 metres away from the nearest tent or caravan.

### **Camp Fires & Cooking Fires**

It is recommended that open campfires be sited well away from tents or caravans and should not be left unattended while alight. When fires are not attended they should be extinguished. Barbeques should not be used inside tents. Any cooking shelter should be located at least the height of the shelter away from the nearest tent, or two metres away from the nearest tent, whichever is the greater. It is strongly recommended that each fire is situated with easy access to extinguishing equipment.

### **Vehicles**

It is suggested that wherever possible, vehicles are parked away from camping units (in a car park). Where this is not suitable, there should be at least a 2-metre gap between each tent/vehicle combination and its nearest neighbours.

### **Caravans & Camper Vans**

The recommended distance between caravans measured from the nearest side to the nearest side (not including awning) is 6 meters.

*NAReS guidance notes are based on what is believed to be current good practice. They are not intended to be exhaustive in their content and are open to revision.*

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