

# Toolbox Talk

## Fire as a Tool

Fires are not always an accidental occurrence or something to cook food on. Sometimes they can be used as a useful tool to get rid of cleared vegetation.

**Note;** to light a bonfire you need to hold an D7 exemption certificate from the Environment Agency.



### Prepare a safe area:

You need to make your fire as safe as possible. In order to do this there are some factors to take into consideration:

You must stay away from:

- Animals and their habitat
- Fences
- Flammable materials
- Power Lines
- Slopes
- Roads and railways (Due to smoke direction)
- Public rights of way.

The area needs to be big enough for your fire **and wood-pile. Ideally it should be flat and dry.**



### PPE:

You should always wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. This should be:

- Gloves
- long sleeve top and trousers
- Goggles.

### Starting your fire:

Firstly you need to use dry kindling/cardboard or rolled up newspaper.

Light the cardboard or paper and add some dry kindling to the top. Not too much or it will go out. Keep doing this slowly until the fire has established itself and you can add larger dry sticks Then start adding the bigger branches.

Never leave your fire unattended.

Ensure the fire is doused an hour before the end of the day and that it is fully extinguished before you leave site.

### Safety Tips:

- ✓ Keep anything flammable away from the fire.
- ✓ Make sure you don't start your fire on a public access path.
- ✓ Keep the fire under control at all times.
- ✓ Wear the appropriate PPE.
- ✓ Don't leave your feeder wood in close proximity to the fire.
- ✓ Remain a safe distance from the fire.
- ✓ Don't leave the fire unattended.