

Isle of Man Fire and Rescue Service



Fire Safety Guidance Note 7

Fire Precautions in Camp Sites

Density and space between pitches

The distance between pitches should reflect the degree of risk upon it. The following are two examples of different risks:

- A fire involving a motorhome is liable to be more severe than a fire involving a tent. Also the risks within a motorhome are greater, (LPG cylinders, fuel tank etc) therefore the minimum distance between motorhomes should be no less than 6m (20 feet) with access to all sides (i.e. not parked tight to a wall).
- A tent on a controlled campsite which has no open fires and a separate area for parking vehicles can reduce the spacing to a meter between guy ropes. This will provide a clear way between tents. This should then provide a minimum spacing of 3 meters between tent walls. (guy ropes will generally extend a minimum of 1 meter away from the tent).

Ultimately the level of risk should be determined by the responsible person in regards to the campsite, but in no instances should the spacing be less than 3 meters.

Pitches should be no closer than 3m (10 feet) to a carriageway and no further away than 45m.

The maximum gross density is 50 tents to every hectare (2.5 acres).

Carriageways serving camp sites should not be less than 4m wide, or 2.75m if they form part of a one-way system.

Fire points

Where standpipes are not provided or water pressure is insufficient, a fire point should be provided with either:

- (a) water extinguishers (2 x 9 litre) or
- (b) AFFF Foam extinguishers (2 x 6 litre)

The maximum distance between a fire point and a tent should be 30m. Fire points should be easily accessible and conspicuously marked "**FIRE POINT**". They should be housed in a weatherproof housing, which may be an alarmed box to discourage theft, vandalism or tampering.

Fire fighting equipment

If standpipes are to be provided, they should be sited at each fire point together with a small diameter reel not less than 30m long, having a suitable connection, preferably screw thread to fit the standpipe and have a small hand controlled nozzle. There should be sufficient pressure and flow on the main to give a 5m jet at the nozzle.

The reel should be housed in a box painted red and marker "**HOSE REEL**".

Fire hydrants

Where a water supply of sufficient pressure and flow is available, there may be a requirement to install a fire hydrant to conform to BSS 750 within 100m of every tent standing.

Fire warning

At each fire point there should be a means of raising alarm. This could be a manually operated sounder e.g rotary gong, or hand operation siren.

Fire notices

A clear conspicuous notice should be provided and maintained at each fire point to indicate the action to be taken and the location of the nearest telephone. The notice should include:

On discovering a fire,

- (1) Ensure the tent or site building involved is evacuated.
- (2) Raise the alarm.
- (3) Call 999 stating fire at Campsite.
- (4) Attack the fire using the firefighting equipment provided, if safe to do so.

Maintenance

All alarm and fire fighting equipment should be installed correctly and maintained in good working order.

All equipment susceptible to frost damage should be suitably protected and should contain anti-freeze if sited in the open air.

The fire extinguishers should be checked on a regular basis and serviced once a year by a competent engineer and the results of the service should be recorded in a log book.

Fire hazards

Grass and vegetation should be cut at frequent and regular intervals to prevent it becoming a fire hazard, cuttings of which should be removed from the vicinity of the tents.

Provision should be made for the storage of liquefied petroleum gas and regard should be made to the Health and Safety Executive Code of Practice for the keeping of liquefied petroleum gas in cylinders and similar containers.

Telephones

A telephone should be available on the site for calling the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance or other services in an emergency. Contact telephone number for the Emergency Services Joint Control Room is 01624 697327.