

CARAVAN SAFETY



Fact.

On average there are almost 100 caravan fires in Scotland every year. Fire can destroy a tent in less than 60 seconds.

> CARAVAN SAFETY

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE WORKING SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR CARAVAN.

A fire in a caravan or mobile home can spread much more quickly than it would in a house or flat. Take extra care and think about fire safety when you are away from home.

Smoke alarms are just as important for your caravan as for your home. Smoke alarms should be fitted in rooms with electrical appliances or other sources of ignition. If your caravan has cooking facilities, consider fitting a heat alarm too.

If fire breaks out, a smoke or heat alarm will alert you and give you time to react safely and sensibly. If you are sleeping, a working alarm could be your only chance of waking up. Test your alarms weekly and never remove the batteries.

KEY SAFETY TIPS

- If you smoke, use ashtrays. Never smoke in bed. Preferably smoke outside your caravan to avoid the risk of fire. Dispose of cigarette ends carefully.
- If you've been drinking alcohol or taking drugs, don't cook.
- Never walk away while you're cooking and never use a cooker or heater while your caravan is moving.
- Turn off all non-essential electrical appliances before you leave the caravan or go to bed.
- Never overload sockets. Consider using a multi-socket adaptor with surge protection.
- Don't run electrics from one caravan/mobile home to another. This could cause fire or pose a risk from electric shock.
- Never leave children alone inside a caravan/mobile home.
- Don't dry clothes over the stove or heaters.
- Where possible, keep children out of the kitchen area when cooking.
- Keep the area near your caravan clear of litter/rubbish and cut back vegetation to reduce the risk of fire spreading.
- Make sure the door is easy to open from the inside in case of fire, or keep door keys available for use in an emergency.

- Keep a torch handy for emergencies – never use lighted candles.
- Rubbish and refuse should be safely stored, preferably in non-combustible containers, and regularly uplifted.
- If fire does break out, get out, stay out, dial 999. Make sure everyone knows how to escape safely from the caravan.

> SITE SAFETY

- Ensure caravans and tents are at least 6 metres apart and well away from parked cars. This will help reduce the risk of fire spreading.
- Make sure you know the campsite's fire safety arrangements and check where the nearest telephone is.
- Keep a mobile phone handy for use in emergencies.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING

- Heating and cooking appliances can cause CO poisoning if they are poorly installed, incorrectly used, inadequately ventilated, or if they are not properly and regularly maintained.
- When fuel does not burn properly, it produces CO gas. CO poisoning kills people. It can also damage your health permanently. The early symptoms of CO poisoning are:
 - Tiredness
 - Drowsiness
 - Dizziness
 - Chest Pains
 - Nausea

MAKE SURE YOU ARE NOT AT RISK FROM CO POISONING:

- Fit a CO detector in your caravan. Ideally, a detector should be installed in all rooms containing a fuel burning appliance or boiler.
- Always keep the caravan well ventilated. Ensure that air vents are clear – if air vents get blocked, it could be fatal.
- Never use fuel-burning devices inside the caravan or tent (e.g. disposable barbeques, camping stoves, camping heaters, lanterns, and charcoal grills).
- Have gas appliances (including the gas supply regulator and hoses) and gas or oil-fired boilers installed and serviced once a year by a Gas Safe engineer.
- Make sure exhaust gases from generators are properly vented away from occupied areas.



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