

## NFU Fire Safety Advisory Note

### Key Steps for Fire Prevention:

- Review your current boundary security arrangements to make it as hard as possible for people to gain access.
- Develop a fire safety strategy and make advance plans for dealing with fire emergencies.
- Consider fitting a fire alarm system that can be heard and responded to at any time of the day or night.
- Put in place an evacuation plan for staff and livestock.
- Ensure sufficient fire extinguishers for the size of buildings and materials stored are inspected and regularly maintained.
- Ensure staff and adult family members know the location of fire extinguishers and how to use them.
- Remove hay and straw from fields as soon as possible after harvest.
- Reduce the risk of arson by fencing off straw stacks, and farm buildings.
- Store hay and straw separately from other buildings, especially those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery.
- Store hay and straw in reasonably sized stacks spaced at least 10 metres apart and well away from livestock buildings.
- Ensure your chemical stores are secure and meet HSE guidelines.
- Store petrol, diesel and other fuels in secure areas.
- Schedule regular electrical safety checks.
- Dispose of farm refuse regularly and safely.
- Invite your local fire and rescue service to visit to check water supplies and access routes.
- If in doubt, talk to your insurer and local fire safety officer about appropriate measures.
- Consider joining a local Farm Watch scheme and working with other farmers and the Police to tackle crime.

### If a fire breaks out:

- Call the Fire and Rescue Service without delay.
- If possible, send someone to the farm entrance to direct the Fire and Rescue Service to the fire to help save time.
- Prepare to evacuate livestock should the fire spread.
- Prepare to use farm machinery to assist the Fire and Rescue Service.

