



**National Directorate for
Fire and Emergency Management**

GUIDE TO FIRE SAFETY IN EXISTING TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Document Title | Guide to Fire Safety in Existing Traveller Accommodation | | |
| Document Version: Draft 1.6 | Date | 2 Dec, 2015 | |
| Prepared By: | PR/COS | | |
| Document Status | Working Draft | | |
| Approved for Issue: SH | Date | 2 Dec, 2015 | |

GUIDE TO FIRE SAFETY IN EXISTING TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR FIRE
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 2015

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 1. | Introduction to Document | 1 |
| 1.1 | Purpose of this Guide..... | 1 |
| 1.2 | Legal Provisions..... | 1 |
| 1.3 | Scope/Application of Document..... | 2 |
| 1.4 | Definitions & Language | 3 |
| 1.5 | Protecting Lives from Fire | 4 |
| 1.6 | Traveller Specific Issues | 4 |
| 1.7 | Approach to Fire Safety..... | 5 |
| 1.8 | Other Issues Impacting on Safety | 6 |
| 2. | Fire Safety in Houses, Caravans, Mobile Homes and Non-standard Accommodation..... | 7 |
| 2.1 | Fire Safety Standards | 7 |
| 2.1.1 | Means of Escape | 7 |
| 2.1.2 | Surface Spread of Flame | 8 |
| 2.1.3 | Structural Aspects of Fire Safety..... | 8 |
| 2.1.4 | Spread of Fire between Buildings | 9 |
| 2.1.5 | Access and Facilities for Fire Services | 9 |
| 2.2 | Appraisal of Fire Safety in Individual Dwellings | 11 |
| 2.3 | Fire Detection and Alarm Systems..... | 11 |
| 2.4 | Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms | 13 |
| 2.5 | Fire Blankets..... | 14 |
| 2.6 | Heating Appliances | 14 |
| 2.7 | Services | 16 |
| 2.7.1 | Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) | 16 |
| 2.7.2 | Electricity..... | 17 |
| 2.8 | Flammable Fuel Storage..... | 17 |
| 3. | Fire Safety Standards for Halting Sites..... | 18 |

| | | |
|------|---|----|
| 3.1 | Introduction | 18 |
| 3.2 | Site Layout..... | 19 |
| 3.3 | Configuration of Adjacent Units within Pitches/Bays | 20 |
| 3.4 | Vehicle Parking..... | 21 |
| 3.5 | Fire Points | 22 |
| 3.6 | Fire Safety Information Onsite..... | 22 |
| 3.7 | Fire Services and Halting Sites | 22 |
| 3.8 | Pre-Incident Planning by Fire Services..... | 23 |
| 3.9 | Fire Services Access to the Halting Site..... | 23 |
| 3.10 | Site Roads..... | 24 |
| 3.11 | Water Supply for Fire-Fighting..... | 24 |
| 3.12 | Fire Warden Programme..... | 24 |
| 4. | Fire Safety for the Traveller Community..... | 25 |
| 4.1 | Fire Safety | 25 |
| | APPENDIX A..... | 27 |
| | Appraisal of Fire Safety in Individual Dwelling Units | 27 |
| | APPENDIX B | 29 |
| | Appraisal of Fire Safety in Halting Sites | 29 |
| | APPENDIX C..... | 31 |
| | Fire Services Traveller Accommodation..... | 31 |
| | Pre-Incident Planning Survey Form..... | 31 |
| | APPENDIX D..... | 37 |
| | Fire safety information for those living in caravans and mobile homes | 37 |
| | Causes of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning | 40 |
| | Appendix E | 41 |
| | Fire Safety Diagrams | 41 |
| | Appendix F | 43 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Fire safety presentation for the Traveller Community | 43 |
| Appendix G..... | 54 |
| Traveller Fire Safety Pictograph..... | 54 |

Tables

| | | |
|---------|---|----|
| Table 1 | Fire Safety Standards and Guidance for Traveller Accommodation..... | 10 |
| Table 2 | Fire Safety Advice..... | 66 |

Figures

| | | |
|----------|--|----|
| Figure 1 | Optical Smoke Alarm with 'Hush' Feature..... | 12 |
| Figure 2 | Separation Distances and Screen Walls..... | 19 |
| Figure 3 | Alternative Means of Escape | 21 |
| Figure 4 | Fire Safety for Halting Sites..... | 41 |
| Figure 5 | Dangers of Electricity & LPG | 41 |
| Figure 6 | Fire Safety risks within bays..... | 42 |
| Figure 7 | Alternative means of escape (route) blocked, trailer too close to the screen wall..... | 42 |

1. Introduction to Document

1.1 Purpose of this Guide

This Guide brings together relevant Fire Safety information, advice, guidance and fire safety standards applicable to existing Traveller accommodation into a single reference document.

It has been prepared to assist Local Authorities in conducting a National Review of Fire Safety in Traveller Accommodation. This National Review was announced in the aftermath of a fire at a halting site on the Glenamuck Road, Carrickmines, Dublin in the early hours of 10 October 2015 which killed 10 people from the same extended family, including 5 adults and 5 children. This tragic loss of life highlights the critical importance of fire safety in Traveller accommodation.

The material detailed in this document aims to provide information and guidance to organisations such as the Local Authority and the Fire Service who interface with the Traveller Community in developing a consistent and effective approach regarding Fire Safety. The objective of this Guide is “Life Safety” where it provides practical and appropriate fire safety information and standards regarding Traveller accommodation. This information can contribute to preventing loss of life and serious injury. Prevention is at the heart of any Fire Safety campaign involving education and information on how to reduce the occurrence of fire. Through these measures it is intended to inform and assist the Traveller Community in protecting themselves and their families from the dangers of fire by setting out best practice regarding fire safety in Traveller dwellings and halting sites.

This Guide has been developed through consultation and engagement with all the various stakeholders. The assistance of representatives of the various Traveller Organisations, Fire Services and Local Authority personnel in the preparation of this Guide is acknowledged.

1.2 Legal Provisions

This Guide has been prepared by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. It is published under the provisions of section 18A(1) of the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003.

The primary legislation relating to fire safety in buildings in Ireland is the Fire Services Act. The Building Control Act, 1990, and regulations made under that Act, set standards (including fire safety standards) for the construction of new or altered buildings.

The accommodation in which Travellers live, be it housing, caravans or other non-standard accommodation are the dwellings of Traveller families. As such, and like all other dwellings in Ireland occupied as a single dwelling, they are specifically excluded from the provisions of sections 18, 19 and 22 of the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003. These sections relate respectively to assigning statutory responsibility for fire safety in premises, and the enforcement and inspection powers of Local Authorities. Therefore, in the case of dwellings occupied as a single dwelling, responsibility for fire safety in each dwelling rests with those living in that dwelling.

A duty-of-care may exist in relation to aspects of accommodation provision where a Local Authority provides the accommodation, but officials of state organisations are not authorised or empowered to enter any dwelling and direct or impose any fire safety provisions on the persons living in a premises occupied as a single dwelling.

Relevant state organisations, such as the Fire Service, may and do offer fire safety advice and assistance to householders on the dangers of fire and the appropriate fire protection measures required. If invited, the Fire Service may provide fire safety advice for the occupants of a dwelling in accordance with the service's policy, and may provide or arrange for the provision and fitting of recommended fire protection measures, including smoke alarms in the dwelling. Responsibility for preventing fires and the effectiveness of fire protection measures remain with those living in the dwelling.

1.3 Scope/Application of Document

This Guide is intended to:

- Support a Community Fire Safety Awareness Initiative appropriate for Traveller accommodation, and underpin a fire safety training programme for key groups;
- Facilitate a review of fire safety in all types of Traveller specific accommodation to ensure that it is appraised and that the appropriate fire safety measures are in place, commensurate with the fire risk;
- Facilitate the Fire Services in responding to fire incidents in Traveller accommodation.

The fire safety advice detailed in this document is relevant and applicable in all forms of accommodation in which Travellers live, be it standard housing, the private rented sector or caravans, mobile homes or other non-standard accommodation. The provisions in Chapter 3 are applicable in all halting sites, regardless of the perceived status as permanent or temporary or if the accommodation is housing, caravans or other non-standard accommodation.

1.4 Definitions & Language

Halting Site; A site provided or occupied where members of the Traveller Community live.

Fire Safety; Measures put in place to reduce the occurrence and/or consequence of fire through design, education, awareness, passive and active and fire safety features, and fire safety management.

Fire Point; An area providing fire safety information and the provision of fire extinguishers.

Hydrant; A hydrant is a fitting on the water-mains which may be used by the emergency services to supplement or replenish the water supply carried on fire appliances for emergency operations.

Caravan; A vehicle equipped for living in, typically capable of being towed by a vehicle. The term “Trailer” or “Van” is sometimes used within the Traveller Community to describe a caravan.

Mobile Home; A *mobile home* is a large caravan that people live in and that usually remains in the same place.

Non- standard Accommodation; refers to portable prefabricated structures being used as accommodation on Traveller halting sites. It also encompasses ad-hoc buildings which are sometimes attached to caravans or mobile homes.

Smoke Alarm; A smoke alarm is a self-contained electronic device that incorporates a means of detecting smoke (the smoke sensor) and a means of giving an audible alarm (the alarm or sounder or buzzer). By sensing smoke in the early stages of a fire and sounding a loud warning alarm, a smoke alarm gives an early warning of fire to persons in the vicinity of the fire. Smoke alarms are regarded as the most effective single measure in protecting lives from fire.

Traveller Specific Accommodation; Accommodation provided by a Local Authority intended to accommodate members of the Traveller Community and to enable them to live in non-standard housing.

CO; Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, poisonous gas. Carbon Monoxide (CO) gas is produced by the incomplete burning of fuel. It is poisonous, and breathing in a small amount can cause loss of consciousness and death.

Conflagration; A conflagration is a term used to describe a destructive fire that spreads to encompass property and threatens human life, health, and/or property.

1.5 Protecting Lives from Fire

While societies strive to reduce the risk of fire, total safety from accidental fire can never be guaranteed. However, achieving fire safety is particularly challenging in some forms of Traveller accommodation. This Guide seeks to create a programme of fire safety measures, aimed at all Travellers, which is culturally appropriate and fits with the needs of the Traveller Community. The details of these are set out in Chapter 2.

Ultimately, the desired outcome is that fire safety in Traveller accommodation has been reviewed against the provisions of this Guide and that appropriate actions, consistent with its provisions, have been undertaken and improvements have been implemented where necessary. In parallel, it seeks to promote a programme to enhance awareness of fire safety issues and fire protection measures among the Traveller Community across the country. This Guide aims to help reduce unnecessary anxiety about fire safety by focussing on significant life risks and to ensure that, from a fire safety perspective and taking into account cultural factors, people living in Traveller accommodation are as safe from the threat of fire as they can be.

1.6 Traveller Specific Issues

Protecting people from the dangers of fire is particularly challenging in the confined and frequently cramped conditions that families living in caravans or non-standard accommodation sometimes find themselves. Accidental fires can arise from a number of sources and, once started, may develop very rapidly, filling the confined space with lethal smoke. This document attempts to provide guidance aimed specifically at those living in these difficult conditions. As in standard housing, this guidance strongly advises the provision of a specific type of smoke alarm to alert persons to smoke/incipient fire thereby providing vital warning and enabling occupants to evacuate/escape in the time available before conditions become untenable for life.

The primary focus therefore is on life safety rather than on property protection which, if lost in fire, may be replaced.

The approach taken is three fold:

1. To highlight the dangers of fire in Traveller dwellings and to ensure that the basic and most effective measure to safeguard those living in each Traveller dwelling, the smoke alarm, is in place and working effectively regardless of the nature of that accommodation. Further details regarding smoke alarms can be viewed in Chapter 2;

2. To clarify fire safety standards for Traveller specific accommodation such as halting sites and group housing so that existing facilities may be reviewed against the standards detailed in Chapter 3;
3. To conduct Community Fire Safety initiatives for Traveller Community Groups and persons interfacing with the Traveller Community, increasing the awareness regarding fire risks and ensuring fire safety initiatives are sustained in the longer term. Details regarding Community Fire Safety can be viewed in Chapter 4.

This Guide is aimed at three key audiences:

1. The Traveller Community;
2. Local Authority personnel involved in the provision of accommodation for Travellers;
3. Fire Service personnel.

1.7 Approach to Fire Safety

The methodology used to address Traveller fire safety is summarised as follows:

Fire Safety Principles in Individual Dwellings

- Avoidance of the outbreak of fire through good fire safety practices;
- Early detection and warning of fire;
- Immediate evacuation of everybody from the space and adjoining spaces;
- Effective procedures for accounting for everybody, including having a designated site assembly point in a safe area away from the effects of fire;
- Early contact with the Emergency Services, dial 999/112.

Management of onsite Fire Safety

- Limitation of fire spread between caravans;
- Pre-Incident Planning (PIP);
- Access and facilities for the Fire Service;
- Maintenance of onsite fire safety measures including fire safety information.

Community Fire Safety

- Fire Safety Awareness and Education;
- Fire Safety Training;
- Fire Warden Programme.

1.8 Other Issues Impacting on Safety

This Guide is concerned with fire safety in Traveller accommodation. It is clear that there are broader safety issues in some areas associated with the provision of Traveller accommodation which are outside the scope of this document.

One of the issues that has emerged through consultation with stakeholders in developing this Guide is a fear that fire safety may be used as a basis for seeking changes in accommodation arrangements. For example, in a situation where the accommodation has come to be shared by the next generation of a family through the introduction of additional facilities, caravans may not be spaced at the recommended 6m separation. While this Guide sets out an approach to dealing with the life safety issues associated with increased numbers of dwellings in confined sites, nothing in this fire safety review process is intended to be used to address broader Traveller accommodation issues in a negative way. Indeed, it is recommended that the fire safety appraisals and any resultant fire safety enhancement works are undertaken in partnership with the relevant Traveller Community, and that available legislative enforcement provisions are not invoked as part of this process to try and effect change.

2. Fire Safety in Houses, Caravans, Mobile Homes and Non-standard Accommodation

This Chapter considers a range of aspects of fire safety in houses, caravans, mobile homes and non-standard accommodation. As noted in section 1.2 above, dwellings are not subject to the provisions of the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003 and the information contained in this Guide is not intended to determine the adequacy or otherwise of accommodation occupied as a single dwelling. However, this Chapter identifies the measures which will help to reduce the impact of accidental fires and which will assist persons living therein in being safe from fire.

2.1 Fire Safety Standards

Fire safety in structures, as detailed in Technical Guidance Document B (TGD – B) – FIRE, is normally considered under five headings, each of which is discussed below. Table 1 sets out the standards which are generally applicable to dwellings. It is important that the principles underpinning the five aspects of fire safety are understood, considered and applied for each individual situation, rather than setting out a series of what might be perceived as arbitrary fire safety “rules”, the application of which could cause difficulty without contributing to life safety.

Existing accommodation can be appraised using the “Fire Safety in Traveller Accommodation – An Appraisal of Fire Safety in Individual Dwelling Units” template in Appendix A of this Guide. It considers fire risk under a number of headings, including fire safety measures and fire safety awareness discussed in this Chapter. It will be seen that, subject to the legal caveat in relation to dwellings in section 1.2, this process will result in recommendations and advice where remediable fire safety deficiencies are identified.

2.1.1 Means of Escape

The layout of dwellings should be such that persons can quickly leave a place in the event of a fire starting. Small fires can generate very large quantities of smoke, which quickly fill confined spaces, making conditions difficult for people to survive. The time available to escape safely will vary depending on individual situations, but should generally be considered in terms of seconds, rather than minutes, especially in confined accommodation such as caravans or mobile homes.

Traveller accommodation is generally single storey; and exit in case of fire should be by way of the normal exit/entrance door to the dwelling (regardless of whether that is a standard domestic house, a mobile home or other form of accommodation).

The travel distance from any point in the dwelling to the exit door is recommended generally to be not more than 9 metres, a distance which most people can travel in seconds. In a dwelling which comprises a single space, people will quickly become aware of a developing fire, provided they are awake. Where there are separate rooms and spaces/corridors, a fire could develop unnoticed to a point where it poses a threat. Also, the risk increases if the layout is such that a person has to pass through another room to reach the exit (inner room situation). This is why the key recommendation for protecting lives in all form of dwellings is the installation of domestic smoke alarms. (See section 2.3).

In an inner room situation, having an additional escape route available, such as an openable window of sufficient size, will provide an alternative escape route if a fire has developed unnoticed to the point where it would be impossible to pass it on the way to the normal exit.

2.1.2 Surface Spread of Flame

The second area for consideration regarding fire safety is the contribution the materials used in the construction of a dwelling make to the spread of a fire in terms of propagating fire and producing smoke. Construction materials are manufactured to a standard and generally have low surface spread of flame ratings. The nature of furnishings and fittings used within a dwelling can also contribute to rapid fire development. Furnishings, included fitted furnishings, generally comply with flame retardant standards. Care should be taken by the occupants within the dwelling with the placement of loose fittings such as curtains, such materials may contribute to rapid fire spread and should not be placed close to any open sources of flame/heat.

2.1.3 Structural Aspects of Fire Safety

As the vast bulk of Traveller accommodation is single storey, structural aspects of fire safety are not seen as a significant consideration relevant for this guide. Dwellings which are two storey (or more) should comply with the normal standards set out in TGD B – FIRE.

2.1.4 Spread of Fire between Buildings

The fourth area considered by TGD - B is the potential for the spread of fire between buildings. Again, in the single storey environment, this is not seen as a critical factor in protecting life from fire, and the Guidance is more concerned with measures preventing conflagration involving multiple units. Of course, a conflagration could pose a threat to life if persons could not readily move away from the vicinity of a rapidly-developing fire.

This threat could increase due to the proximity of the individual dwellings, inhibiting the safe exit from the dwelling due to the radiated heat from a fully developed fire in an adjacent caravan, and this factor is discussed further in Chapter 3.

2.1.5 Access and Facilities for Fire Services

Fire Services frequently respond to fires which are located in locked buildings. The Fire Service have special equipment and training to gain access to these locked buildings where required. Each fire engine carries 1800 litres of water which is adequate for the normal initial operations to contain/extinguish fires.

The Fire Service conducts Pre-Incident Planning within their functional area, this involves the Fire Service engaging with the targeted site and assessing the:

- Building purpose & threats to life safety;
- Layout;
- Facilities for the Fire Service;
- Special risks onsite.

This familiarisation is used to provide the Fire Service with information which assists it in responding to emergency situations involving the site. This aspect is also considered in Chapter 3.

Fire Safety Standards and Guidance for Traveller Accommodation

Fire Safety Standards in Houses

Technical Guidance Document B - FIRE

Fire Safety Standards in Caravans and Mobile Homes

Residential Park Homes Specification BS 3632:2005

Fire safety of camping tents, awnings, trailer tents and caravan awnings BS 5576:

Ventilation

I.S. 168 Ventilation of Caravans and Mobile Homes. Covered by S.I. 111/1974 Industrial Research and Standards Act (Section 44) (Caravans and Mobile Homes) Order, 1974

S.I. No. 316/1995 - Industrial Research and Standards (Fire Safety) (Domestic Furniture) Order, 1995

Electricity

ETCI 101:2008 National standard for Electrical Installations in Ireland

I.S. EN 1648-1:2012; Leisure Accommodation Vehicles - 12 v Direct Current Extra low Voltage Electrical Installations

LPG

Gas Technical Standards Consultative Committee¹

I.S. EN 1949:2002; Specification for the Installation of LPG Systems for Habitation Purposes in Leisure Accommodation Vehicles and in Other Vehicles

Table 1 Fire Safety Standards and Guidance for Traveller Accommodation

¹ <http://www.nsai.ie/Our-Services/Standardization/Find-Consultative-Committee/Gas-Technical-Standards-Consultative-Committee.aspx>

2.2 Appraisal of Fire Safety in Individual Dwellings

New accommodation should be designed and constructed to comply with the relevant standards, including the fire safety standards as set out in Table 1 above to comply with Building Regulations.

Accommodation provided directly by Local Authorities should be checked by the Local Authority against the standards and guidance herein, and appropriate remedial actions taken in cases where deviations are seen to have a significant impact on life safety.

Travellers should undertake a Dwelling Fire Safety Check to identify any fire safety improvements which could be implemented. The headings set out in this Chapter are recommended as a basis for Home Fire Safety Checks. The Appraisal Sheet set out in Appendix A is intended as a tool to enable consistency in the application of the fire safety appraisal within Traveller accommodation.

It is recommended that Travellers who have provided, constructed or added non-standard accommodation as dwellings for themselves and their families should appraise the fire hazards associated with the layout and construction of such accommodation in light of the information in this Guide and take the appropriate action to mitigate the degree of risk associated with fire hazards, so that persons can become aware of and escape rapidly from a fire. Further information regarding Fire Safety in Caravans is provided for in Appendix D.

2.3 Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

The occurrence of fire in a caravan could lead very quickly to a situation where conditions become untenable and escape routes become unusable. If people are asleep when a fire starts, they may never wake up or get the chance to escape. Domestic type smoke alarms should be fitted in every room of every house, caravan, mobile home and non-standard accommodation.

Optical smoke alarms with a hush feature are recommended as being suitable for use in caravans and mobile homes. It is recommended that an optical smoke alarm with hush feature be fitted near the cooking/kitchen area and an optical smoke alarm fitted in all other rooms within the dwelling. It is important to ensure that everyone in the household is familiar with the sound of the smoke alarm and has practiced the evacuation drill.

Smoke alarms are made available by Fire Services as part of Community Fire Safety Awareness campaigns.

Smoke alarms should:

- Be tested weekly;
- Be positioned at ceiling level i.e. at the highest point in the room, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- Be kept clean. Dust and debris can interfere with their operation, so clean around your smoke alarm regularly. If you have a mains powered smoke alarm, follow the manufacturers' guidance in relation to cleaning.



OPTICAL
with Hush

Figure 1 Optical Smoke Alarm with 'Hush' Feature

Consideration needs to be given to interlinking the smoke alarms in situations where sleeping accommodation is provided for children or part of a family in a caravan other than the main living area.

2.4 Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

Carbon Monoxide (also known as CO) is a colourless, odourless poisonous gas which is a common yet preventable cause of death from poisoning worldwide. The incomplete combustion of fuels such as oil, gas or coal is a common source of CO and is responsible for many cases of CO poisoning. The presence of CO in a living space can be detected by a Carbon Monoxide alarm which will give warning to occupants of the danger.

All caravans and mobile homes should be fitted with a Carbon Monoxide alarm.

The reliability of CO alarms in identifying potentially hazardous levels of domestic CO exposure is dependent in part on how they are deployed. Guidance is usually provided by the manufacturer based on BS EN 50292:2013, which recommends that an alarm is fitted:

- In every room that contains a fuel burning appliance;
- At least 300 mm from any wall (for ceiling mounted alarms);
- At least 150 mm from the ceiling, above the height of any door or window (for wall mounted alarms);
- Between 1 and 3 m (measured horizontally) from the potential source of CO.

The standard also recommends that an alarm is not fitted:

- In an enclosed space;
- Where it can be obstructed;
- Directly above a sink;
- Next to a door, window, extractor fan, air vent or similar ventilation opening.

The CO alarm should:

- Comply with European Standard EN 50291 - This should be marked on the box;
- The alarm should carry the CE Marking;
- It should have an 'end of life' indicator - This indicator should not be confused with any 'fault' indicator;
- Carry an independent certification mark, for example a kite mark - This indicates that the alarm has been approved by an accredited testing and certification organisation.

2.5 Fire Blankets

As a general principle, the best fire safety advice is **to evacuate everybody immediately** from a dwelling, caravan or mobile home where a fire occurs and ring 999/112.

Provision of first aid fire-fighting equipment could encourage persons to attempt to fight the fire rather than evacuating, or going back into a confined space to attempt to fight the fire. For this reason, the only first aid fire-fighting measures recommended to be provided in caravans and mobile homes are fire blankets complying with I.S. 415:1988. These are squares of material which can be used to smother fires when they are in the very early stage. Fire blankets typically should be positioned securely and in full view on an upright wall in the cooking/kitchen area of the accommodation. Where members of the Traveller Community indicate a wish to have additional first aid fire-fighting equipment such as fire extinguishers provided on a halting site, it is recommended that these should be provided at Fire Points (see section 3.5) rather than in individual dwellings.

2.6 Heating Appliances

2.6.1 General

Various forms of heating appliances may be in use in Traveller accommodation. This section outlines the most frequently used ones and highlights the fire hazards that may be associated with them.

Heating appliances and associated flues in dwellings should comply with Part J of the Building Regulations². Boilers and burners should be kept in good working order, serviced and maintained by a qualified registered provider.

2.6.2 Solid Fuel Stoves

The provision of solid fuel stoves in caravans is not recommended because the radiated heat output could be such that it could set fire to surrounding materials. Where stoves are in use, a careful appraisal of the guarding/separation and/or insulation arrangements should be made, including floor surfaces under the stove and where flues pass through the roof.

² Heat Producing Appliances, Building Regulations Part J, 2014

Never

- **Position solid fuel stoves beside the entrance/exit from the caravan;**
- **Place the stove directly onto the floor;**
- **Place the stove close to a combustible wall or surface.**

2.6.3 LPG Heaters

An unflued Portable Indoor LPG Heating Appliance consists of a 9Kg LPG cylinder housed in the rear of the appliance with temperature setting dials, sometimes called cabinet heaters. It is important that Carbon Monoxide monitors are fitted where these are in use and that flammable material is not placed directly above or close to the radiant heat panels.

2.6.4 Electrical Space-Heaters

An electrical space-heater converts electric current to heat. The heating element inside every electric heater is an electrical resistor, and works on the principle of heating air passing over the element (sometimes fan driven). Properly installed electrical space-heaters provide the safest form of heating, but materials should not be placed directly on them or too close. All electrical space-heaters should be fitted with the appropriate plug and fuse and wired correctly.

2.6.5 Oil-Filled Heaters

An oil heater, also known as an oil-filled heater, oil-filled radiator, or column heater, is a common form of convection heater used in domestic heating. Although filled with oil, it is electrically heated and does not involve burning any oil fuel, the oil is used as a heat reservoir (buffer), not as a fuel. All oil-filled space-heaters should be fitted with the appropriate plug and fuse and wired correctly.

2.6.6 Paraffin/Kerosene Heaters

A kerosene heater, also known as a paraffin heater, is a portable, unvented, kerosene-fuelled, space-heating device. Again, it is important that a Carbon Monoxide alarm is fitted where these are in use. Paraffin heaters are not recommended for use within caravans.

2.7 Services

2.7.1 Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)³

Bottled LPG is a convenient fuel and is used for cooking and heating. When LPG is in use, always:

- Use the right size cylinder for the connection provided;
- Use the right regulator, check it and replace if faulty;
- Store it in an upright position (so that pressure relief valves can operate) and place it on solid/level ground;
- Secure it out of direct sunlight away from all heat and ignition sources;
- Have it serviced annually by a registered provider.

Always

- **Switch off gas appliances within the caravan/mobile home/non-standard accommodation when not in use;**
- **Secure the cylinder and its connection;**
- **Store empty cylinders away from accommodation out of direct sunlight or heat sources.**

Never

- **Interfere with a cylinder;**
- **Cover or block air vents within the caravan;**
- **Place rubbish or other ignitable materials close to cylinders.**

If you suspect a gas leak

- **Turn the cooker/ heating off;**
- **Open windows fully;**
- **Get out of the caravan and turn the main cylinder valve off fully;**
- **Do not light naked flames, or turn electrical switches on or off;**
- **If in doubt ring 999/112 from a place remote to the caravan in open air.**

³ DIN EN 14470-2 : Storage and management of gas cylinders

2.7.2 Electricity

Electrical connections should be provided in each bay with certified waterproof connections as detailed in ET101:2008. This connection should be checked regularly and if in doubt contact **a qualified electrician or the electricity supplier.**

Never

- **Take electricity from another caravan;**
- **Use internal grade extension leads outdoors;**
- **Never take electricity from overheard wires;**
- **Never overload a socket.**

Always

- **Unplug all non-essential electrical appliances at night;**
- **Make sure electrical wiring and appliances are in good working order, get them tested regularly by a qualified and certified electrician;**
- **Always use electrical appliances as per manufacturer's instructions.**

2.8 Flammable Fuel Storage

All flammable fuel such as petrol, paraffin or diesel should be stored in proper containers⁴ and be kept at least 6 metres away from the caravan in a secure lockup.

⁴ DIN EN14470-1 : Fire Safety Storage Cabinets – Part 1: Safety Storage Cabinets for Flammable Liquids, HS(G)51 – The Storage of Flammable Liquids in Containers

3. Fire Safety Standards for Halting Sites

3.1 Introduction

National Guidance on the design, including fire safety, of halting sites has been in place for some time. Chapter 2 above dealt with fire safety within the individual dwellings. As noted in section 2.1.4, there are a number of situations where a fire external to a dwelling could be a threat to the safety of its occupants. This Guide sets out the general principles of fire safety which should be considered in this regard, looking at the individual circumstances of each halting site, rather than being a set of specific rules to be applied retrospectively.

This Guide acknowledges that, in an ideal world, site design & layout would comply with the established design criteria. However, even those sites which were originally designed in accordance with the specific criteria have changed and evolved, mirroring the occupants' life stages. Consequently, an approach is recommended in each existing situation which looks at the potential effects of a fire occurring in any part of a halting site and the danger that this poses. This approach to appraising fire safety is also applicable for sites which have come into use or have evolved without the benefit of a design scheme.

Factors to be considered when appraising sites include:

- The overall site layout;
- The number of pitches/bays;
- The density of dwellings including the layout within individual bays, which could affect life safety and consequently determines the specific fire protection which is appropriate to a particular case.

The provisions of this Guide are relevant and applicable in all forms of Traveller accommodation, regardless of their status as permanent or temporary halting sites or if the accommodation is housing, caravans or other non-standard accommodation or combinations of these.

It is not the purpose of this Guide to determine the appropriateness or otherwise of particular sites or the use of those sites as Traveller accommodation. Rather the purpose is to appraise the threats to life safety arising from:

- The site layout;
- The agglomeration of dwellings and the threat of conflagration which could endanger residents;
- Access for Fire Services.

3.2 Site Layout

The two main site design layouts currently used in halting sites are “circular” or “tree branch”. The circular design usually has speed control built into the design to restrict the movement of traffic, while the tree design provides cul-de-sacs or dead ends, thereby reducing traffic movements and making the area less dangerous for children.

In general, the recommended layouts of sites are to provide a minimum of 6 metres separation between each caravan to prevent fire spread. As an alternative, screen walls can be provided to prevent radiated heat from one caravan affecting an adjoining one. Screen walls should generally be a minimum of 2.4 metres in height and run the full length of the caravan (see Figure 2). Additionally, the living accommodation and its means of escape in case of fire should be located remote from any wall which acts as a screen wall. The design guidance recommends that a family bay should ideally have an area of 234m² (e.g. 13 metres wide and 18 metres deep) and be surrounded on three sides by screen walls providing adequate fire separation distances and preventing the spread of fire. The distance between caravans can be reduced to 2 metres, where screen walls have been provided. However care is needed to ensure that screen walls do not prevent persons from moving away from fires external to their caravan.

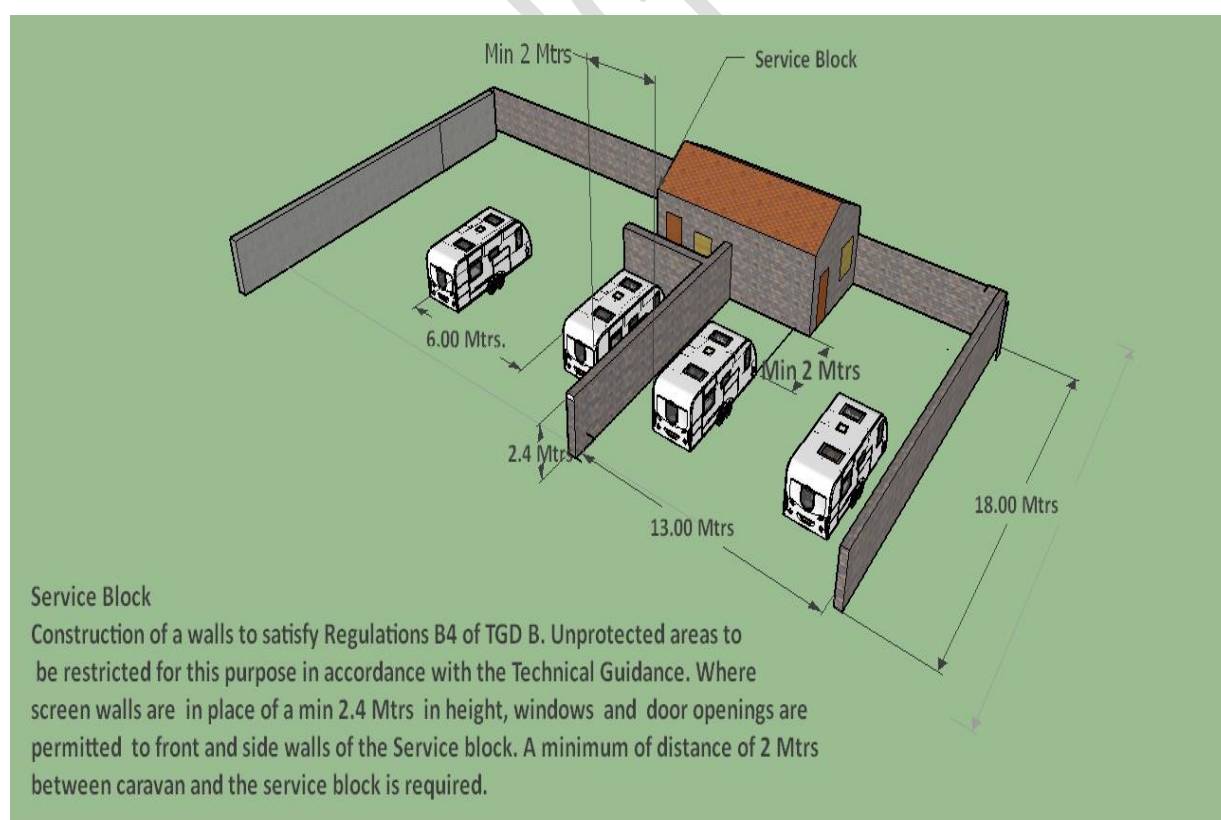


Figure 2 Separation Distances and Screen Walls

It is generally recommended that, unless screen walls are provided at the boundary, there should be a gap of 3 metres between any accommodation structure and the site boundary to prevent a fire outside spreading in to the site or vice versa.

Although possible, fire spread between residential units is unlikely to pose a significant threat to life of persons in a halting site. The normal modes of fire spread between structures include radiated heat or flame contact if driven by high winds. The design principles of separation distance and screen walls reduce the likelihood of fire spread between structures on a site. Fire Service intervention can also be a factor in preventing fire spread and preventing conflagration.

3.3 Configuration of Adjacent Units within Pitches/Bays

Each pitch/bay should have hard standing which is constructed of hard wearing material covering the entire area to be occupied by caravans, mobile homes and other non-standard accommodation. It should also be level with drainage falls built into the design.

In general, the design standards for each pitch/bay provide for:

- A designated area for rubbish disposal a minimum of 4 metres away from the accommodation in an appropriate container/bin in a secure area;
- A distribution of electricity hook up points;
- A water connection;
- A structure which enables LPG cylinders to be kept upright, out of direct sunlight and safe from interference.

Amenity blocks are sometimes provided within the pitch/bay. The design standards recommend a minimum of 2 metres separation between the caravan and the amenity block. The amenity block should comply with Buildings Regulations.

While recognising that site layout is important to prevent fire spread, the configuration of adjacent units which are part of the same bay could endanger persons in different parts of a bay. For instance, if two caravans are tightly positioned into a single bay, there may be insufficient room for normal escape and a fire in either one could threaten persons in the other caravan by preventing them leaving the area of the fire.

As a principle, the layout of grouped accommodation in a bay should enable occupants to leave quickly and safely in the event of a fire in their own or adjacent elements of the bay.

This means that, having exited the door of their own caravan, any person should be able to turn their back to a fire in an adjacent caravan or other non-standard accommodation and get to a place of safety without having to come close to the fire. This needs to be considered in all situations where there are multiple units, and all structures should be sited to ensure that escape routes are available from each part so that occupants of adjacent parts of a bay can evacuate safely to a designated assembly point away from danger in the event of fire.

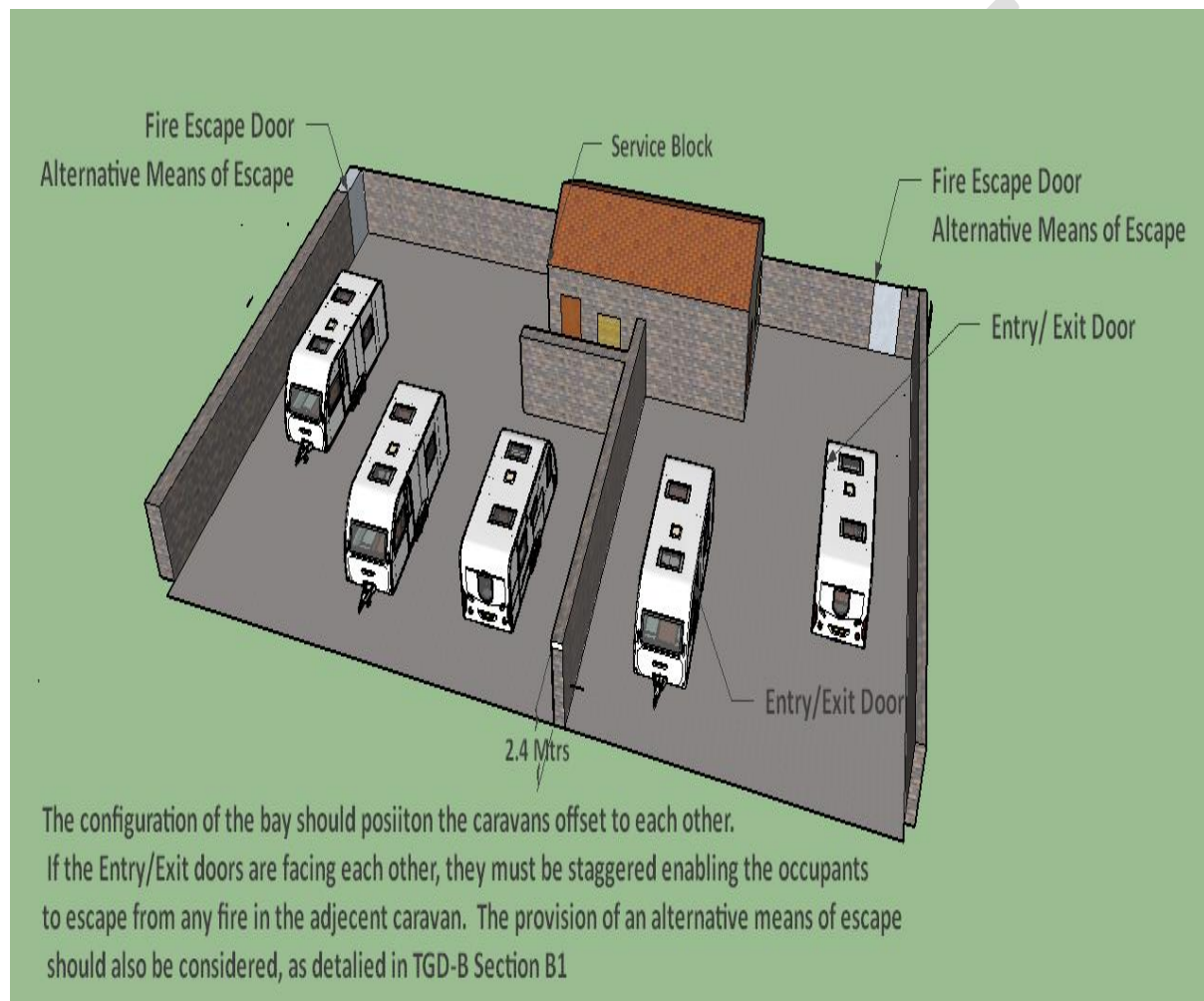


Figure 3 Alternative Means of Escape

3.4 Vehicle Parking

The parking of vehicles has the potential to obstruct escape from a fire. Vehicles should be parked away from the dwellings units, and a minimum distance of 3 metres is recommended. Parking should be in an area that will not prohibit access/ movement of the Fire Service on the site (see section 3.12 also).

3.5 Fire Points

“Fire Points” should be established at appropriate locations on halting sites and be clearly and conspicuously marked. Fire Points have two functions:

- To serve as assembly points in the event of fire, where persons can be accounted for. A notice including fire safety text and pictograph should be displayed to indicate the immediate action to be taken in the event of fire, including calling the Fire Service on 999 or 112;
- To provide first aid fire-fighting equipment beyond the fire blanket provided for in dwellings; these will be located at the Fire Point. Fire extinguishers⁵ which can be used in the event of fire can be housed in purpose made, weather proof cabinets at the fire point.

Fire Point maintenance will need to be included in the annual work schedule of the Local Authority.

3.6 Fire Safety Information Onsite

As part of a Community Fire Safety Initiative described in Chapter 4, it is recommended that Fire Safety Information Notices which are at a scale large enough to be comfortably seen from various points within the site should be provided at prominent positions, i.e. at the entrance to the site and at the Fire Points within the halting site. These should contain site-specific fire safety information⁶ as well as general fire safety messages for the Traveller Community. Notices should be in laminated form and include the fire safety pictographs and any other fire safety advice available.

3.7 Fire Services and Halting Sites

Fire Services respond typically to between 300 and 350 emergency calls in halting sites each year. This section sets out the arrangements to assist Fire Services in making effective responses to such calls. Chapter 4 sets out the approach of the Fire Services to preventing fires and reducing the number and severity of incidents in Traveller accommodation.

⁵ I.S. 291:2015; Selection, commissioning, installation, inspection and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers, I.S. EN3: 1996

⁶ BS ISO 3864-1:2011 - Safety Signs, Including Fire Safety Signs.

This section deals with:

- Pre-Incident Planning (PIP) by Fire Services for response to halting sites;
- Access to halting sites;
- Moving within halting sites;
- Specific facilities for the Fire Service.

Because of the importance of working with the Traveller Community in managing fire risk, each Fire Service with a significant Traveller population within its functional area should designate a liaison officer for its Traveller Community. This liaison officer will be a point of contact for both the Traveller Community and their representative organisations, providing a platform for engagement in Pre-Incident Planning and Community Fire Safety initiatives being provided for the Traveller Community.

3.8 Pre-Incident Planning by Fire Services

Fire Services undertake what is termed 'Pre-Incident Planning' (PIP) to enhance their knowledge and response when an incident occurs at a specific location. Fire Services include Traveller accommodation among their priorities for PIP. PIP enables the local Fire Service to familiarise themselves with the location, how they will gain access, the likely situations they will encounter, specific hazards, what fire engines they should send as an automatic 'pre-determined attendance' for a call to that address and what facilities may be available at the site.

PIP involves the Fire Service visiting the site and completing the Pre-Incident Planning survey form (see Appendix C). PIP visits will be arranged usually through the Fire Service liaison officer and the local Traveller Community groups. Multiple visits may be necessary so that the different watches in full time services can familiarise themselves with the same sites.

3.9 Fire Services Access to the Halting Site

Barriers to prevent unauthorised access are a feature of most halting sites. Arrangements should be put in place and reviewed during the Fire Services annual Pre-Incident Planning visit to the site to ensure that emergency services vehicles can access the site without delay. One of the ways to achieve this is for the Fire Service to have keys for any barriers at the site entrance. Fire Services carry an array of tools to enable them to gain entry to buildings and for other barriers which are not readily removable when keys are not available.

3.10 Site Roads

Vehicle Access Route Specifications for halting sites are drawn generally from B5 of Technical Guidance Document B – FIRE and, where feasible, access roads in halting sites should comply with these. If the access road is a single carriage way and longer than 200 metres, the design standards recommend that passing bays should be provided. Passing bays should be 20 metres long with a trafficable width of 6 metres. Roads within the site should not have overhead electrical cables lower than 4.5 metres above the ground.

On-site car parking should not obstruct the passage of emergency vehicles.

If an access road is further than 100 metres from the nearest intersection, it should have a turning circle or reversing area. These provisions are intended to ensure that emergency vehicles can access the site without delay during all-weather conditions and move around so that fire fighting operations can be started from within easy reach of the caravans.

3.11 Water Supply for Fire-Fighting

Fire Services have an array of approaches to providing a supply of water for fire-fighting. Each standard Class B fire engine carries 1,800 litres of water. This is sufficient for the initial search and rescue and fire-fighting operations and will extinguish the majority of fires. A second appliance will have a further 1,800 litres and water tankers with 5,000 litres plus are mobilised if there is need. Fire Services are also equipped with portable pumps which they make down to open source (ponds, rivers, etc.), as well as connecting to available hydrants.

Where hydrants are provided, they should comply with the BS 750:2012 - Specification for underground hydrants and surface box, frames and covers. The availability of hydrants and water supply is a feature that is usually checked in the Pre-Incident Planning stage.

3.12 Fire Warden Programme

It is recommended that a fire safety warden programme should be developed where the scale of the site would merit this. The warden would interact with the Traveller Community on the site and others such as caretakers, social workers and health care providers who will be trained by the Fire Service to deliver Fire Safety information onsite also. The site wardens will liaise with the local Fire Service liaison officer as part of the Community Fire Safety programme.

4. Fire Safety for the Traveller Community

4.1 Fire Safety

The previous two chapters looked at fire safety measures appropriate for physical dwellings and halting sites respectively. The 'disaster tree' is an analytical approach used to understand significant events involving loss through fire. It is a common understanding that a fire event may escalate through various levels from initiation and result in loss, damage and/or death (including multiple deaths). This Chapter looks at the human dimension of fire safety, raising awareness of the fire risk, preventing fires as much as possible and taking appropriate actions if a fire occurs.

The objective of any fire safety activity is to prevent the event starting, or if a fire does start, to prevent it escalating through the various levels of the disaster tree to the point of causing death or large-scale loss. The probability of arriving at the point of disastrous outcomes is reduced significantly by fire safety activities, but will never be fully eliminated.

Fires in dwellings comprise the largest category of societal fire risk with more than 90% of the annual death toll from fires occurring in the domestic setting. There are typically 4,500 dwelling fires annually in Ireland, (excluding chimney fires).

Fire safety is achieved through the "Prevent, Protect, Respond" paradigm which is part of an overall fire risk management approach. Local Authorities provide a range of services aimed at enhancing fire safety in their communities by preventing fires from happening in the first instance, through ensuring all appropriate fire protection measures are in place in buildings, as well as providing a 'blue light' response by the Fire Service.

4.2 Community Fire Safety

One of the Local Authority services operated by the Fire Service is referred to as **Community Fire Safety**. This aims to promote general fire safety messages to reduce the number of fires, together with targeting fire safety messages at key groups of the population who are identified as being particularly vulnerable to fire. The development of "Community Fire Safety" over the past decade is a particularly welcome risk management approach. Engaging people to take responsibility for their own safety in so far as they can is seen as a particularly effective approach.

It is recognised also by Fire Services that the best and most effective access to many of those who are seen as being vulnerable to the threat of fire can be achieved through partnerships with the existing community networks and organisations who work with 'at risk' groups.

4.3 Fire Safety Awareness Programmes for Travellers

Fire safety awareness programmes for the Traveller Community include elements of awareness of fire risk, knowledge of fire prevention measures and early warning from smoke alarms as well as the actions to be taken in the event of fire, including calling the emergency services, evacuation to designated assembly points and ensuring access to the site is available.

The objective of Community Fire Safety is to engage with the Traveller Community through the various Community Fire Safety awareness and educational programs, enabling Travellers to undertake practical steps regarding fire safety issues commonly associated with living on sites. This approach complements other fire safety measures for the Traveller Community discussed in earlier chapters, encompassing an holistic fire safety management strategy.

The principal elements of the systems approach to fire safety are:

- Identifying fire hazards and those most vulnerable to fire;
- Taking appropriate steps to mitigate/ manage the risk associated with those hazards;
- Ensuring preparedness;
- Reacting appropriately if there is a fire;
- Recovering and learning for the future if there has been a fire.

Education and fire safety training is being made available to the Traveller Community. This includes making appropriate messages about fire safety widely available in a range of formats. Appendix G contains key fire safety messages in pictograph form. Fire Service personnel should liaise with Traveller Community representatives to identify the optimal opportunities to deliver Community Fire Safety for Travellers.

4.4 Fire Safety Training

In addition to making training available for the Traveller Community, Fire Services will provide training for relevant Local Authority staff and other appropriate groups that interact with the Traveller Community as a means of ensuring a consistent and wide-spread consciousness of fire safety.

Appendix F sets out a syllabus for a short introductory fire safety course.

APPENDIX A

Appraisal of Fire Safety in Individual Dwelling Units

| Location | Identifier | Principal Occupant/ Occupant Family | Basis of Appraisal | Date |
|----------|------------|--|-----------------------|------|
| | | | | |

| Accommodation | Dwelling Type | Fire Protection | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|--|--|
| | | Smoke Alarms | Escape Routes | Carbon Monoxide | | | |
| | Std Housing | | | | | | |
| | Block/ Unit | | | | | | |
| | Std Caravan/ Mobile Home | | | | | | |
| | Non-Std | | | | | | |
| | Combination of above | | | | | | |
| Services | | | | | | | |
| | Electrical | | | | | | |
| | Heating | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Typical Occupancy | | | | | | |
| | Other Fire Safety Considerations | | | | | | |
| | Overall Conclusion | | | | | | |
| | Fire Safety Actions Recommended/Undertaken | | | | | | |
| Accommodation | Specific Action | Who | | | When | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Services | | | | | | | |

APPENDIX B

Appraisal of Fire Safety in Halting Sites

| Local Authority Area | Location | Status | Caretaker/ Contact | Basis of Appraisal | Date |
|--|----------|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| | | | | | |
| Site Layout | | | Comments/Recommendations | | |
| Overall site layout | | | | | |
| Number of Bays/ Pitches on Site | | | | | |
| Separation between caravans | | | | | |
| Separating walls as alt to separation distances between caravans | | | | | |
| Caravans on Hard standing | | | | | |
| Accommodation density in each pitch | | | | | |
| Layout facilitates escape from each element of accommodation within each pitch? | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Access for Fire Service | | | | | |
| Barriers openable by the Fire Service | | | | | |
| Site Roads clear for Fire Service access | | | | | |
| Turning circles for Fire Service vehicles | | | | | |
| Hydrants/ Open water supply | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Site Management & Services | | | |
| Overall site management arrangement | | | |
| Specified area for Rubbish Disposal | | | |
| Fuel or combustible material present underneath or piled against caravans | | | |
| Full Gas cylinders outside/ secure, on solid ground and covered from heat | | | |
| Empty Gas cylinders stored securely away from the caravans and other vehicles | | | |
| Electrical supply to dwellings | | | |
| Vehicles parked clear of residential units | | | |
| Public Lighting on site | | | |
| "Fire Points" | | | |
| Fire Safety Signage | | | |
| Bonfires | | | |
| | | | |
| Additional Comment | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Person Carrying out Appraisal | Recommendations given to | Scheduled follow-up? | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

APPENDIX C

Fire Services Traveller Accommodation

Pre-Incident Planning Survey Form

Local Authority:

Site Details:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Halting Site Name | | | |
| Address: | | | |
| | | | |
| Alias name | | | |
| Landmarks | | | |
| Total Occupancy | | | |
| Date of Inspection | | | |
| Time of Inspection | | | |
| Officer in Charge of Party | | | |
| | | COMMENTS | |
| No of Pitches | | | |
| Max Occupancy of Site | | | |
| Max Occupancy of a bay | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | YES | NO | Comments |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|----------|
| Optimal Route to Site | | | |
| Access to Site | | | |
| Barrier Readily Openable? | | | |
| Alternative entrances? | | | |
| Height Restrictions | | | |
| Lighting on Site | | | |
| Roadways within the Site | | | |
| Turning circles or stands | | | |

| Other Hazards on Site | | | | Comments |
|---|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Open Water | | | | |
| Electrical Pylons/ Lines | | | | |
| Low Power cables | | | | |
| Sewerage | | | | |
| Vehicles | | | | |
| Fuel/ Oil/ Combustible/ Flammable Material | | | | |
| Rubbish disposal | | | | |
| Bonfires | | | | |
| Other | | | | |
| Utility Services | | | | Supply Details & Shut Off Locations |
| Main Electrical Switch | | | | |
| Connections to Dwellings | | | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Electrical connections from other sources | | |
| Gas Cylinders Outside on Hard surface and Upright | | |
| Empty Gas Cylinders | | |

Site Specific Information for the Emergency Services:

Fire Protection

| | | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| If Hydrants on Site | | | |
| Hydrants Location | | | |
| Hydrants Pressure/ Flow | | | |
| Alternative Water Supply | | | |
| Fire Safety Signage | | | |
| Designated Meeting Point | | | |
| Fire Safety Training | | | |
| Name of Trained Persons | | | |
| Date Training received | | | |

Occupancy

| Occupants | Day | | Night | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| | Min | Max | Min | Max |
| Whole Site | | | | |
| General Occupancy by residential unit | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Persons of Special Concern: (Disabled persons, special need etc.) | | | | |

Special Risks (e.g. hazardous materials, large fire loads, Gas, Petrol / Diesel, chemical storage)

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Details / Description | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Completed By:

Name: _____

Function/Title: _____

Phone No. _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX D

Fire safety information for those living in caravans and mobile homes



If you live in a caravan:

- fit a smoke alarm
- fit a Carbon Monoxide alarm
- take special care when cooking - don't leave pans unattended
- keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children
- if you smoke, use suitable metal ashtrays - and never smoke in bed
- don't leave children alone inside
- don't block air vents
- keep a fire blanket inside, by the door
- keep gas cylinders and other fuels outside your caravan
- before going to bed (or leaving the caravan) turn off and unplug all electrical appliances
- always keep blankets or items of clothing away from open flames or heating devices.
- always keep the doorway clear of any obstructions, furniture etc.
- have an escape plan when the smoke alarm sounds and practice it.
- Make sure you can turn away from a fire in an adjoining unit and get to a place of safety

Using gas cylinders safely in caravans and mobile homes

You should take special care when handling gas cylinders. Follow these safety tips:

- if there are gas burning appliances in your caravan, install a carbon monoxide alarm, check it regularly and replace the battery as recommended
- if you think there is a gas leak, turn off all appliances and the main cylinder valve and open all the doors and windows
- change gas cylinders only when they are completely empty
- make sure the new cylinder is secure before connecting it
- when changing cylinders, make sure all cylinder valves are turned off before disconnecting
- Make sure the new cylinder is properly connected and secure before opening the valve

- spare and empty cylinders should be kept in the upright position in open air and secured by a safety strap or other quick release device

If you suspect a gas leak:

- turn off all the appliances and the main cylinder valve
- open all the doors and windows
- get out of the caravan or mobile home into fresh air and away from the caravan
- do not smoke or operate electrical switches
- if in doubt get out and ring 999 /112

Cooking safety in caravans and mobile homes

Follow these basic precautions to reduce the risk of fire:

- never leave your cooking unattended
- if your chip pan catches fire, turn off the heat , or if you have a fire blanket, place it over the pot if safe to do so. Do not throw water on it or move the pan because it will only make it worse. Instead, get everyone out and stay out, call 999/ 112

Electrical safety and heating in caravans and mobile homes

You can keep your mobile home safe from the risk of electrical and heating fires by following these safety tips:

- never interfere with electricity supplies
- make sure your electrical wiring and appliances are in good order
- if you are using multi-adaptors, do not overload a system

Storing fuel for your homes

To store fuel for your mobile home, you should:

- not store petrol, diesel or gas containers under or directly beside your mobile home
- store petrol, diesel or gas containers securely and in appropriate containers away from the caravan
- make sure your gas bottle (LPG) is outside, standing upright on level ground - away from heat sources and secure
- make sure the connection to the gas pipe is sound and the gas bottle secured

Solid Fuel Stoves

- Solid fuel stoves should only be fitted where surrounding floors, walls and ceilings can be properly insulated from the radiated heat
- They should be fit for purpose

- They should be protected by guards to prevent people accidentally being burned
- Flues should be fitted in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- NEVER use petrol, paraffin or diesel when lighting a stove
- Clean flues regularly
- make sure the area where the stove is fitted is well ventilated by opening a door or window
- Do not use for drying clothes

Fire safety in mobile parks

When putting your mobile home in position, you should park at least six metres apart from other mobile homes and well away from parked cars.

In addition, make sure you do not block access for emergency services and know what the fire evacuation procedures/ arrangements on the site are. This should include having designated meeting points in a safe area, where people can be quickly accounted for.

If there is a fire in your caravan:

- Get everyone out straight away
- do not re-enter or try and fight the fire yourself
- call 999/112 and give your exact location, provide a nearby landmark,
- Remember: Get everyone out, Stay out and Get the Fire Service out

Causes of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

You can be in danger of Carbon Monoxide poisoning if dangerous amounts of Carbon Monoxide accumulate in the home or caravan. This can happen as a result of any or a combination of the following:

- Faulty or damaged heating appliances
- Heating appliance not maintained or serviced
- Rooms not properly ventilated
- Blocked chimneys or flues
- Indoor use of a barbecue grill or outdoor heater
- Poor installation of heating appliances
- Improper operation of heating appliances
- Alterations or home improvements, which reduce ventilation
- Running engines such as vehicles or lawnmowers in garages
- Using cooking appliances for heating purposes

Symptoms of CO Poisoning

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning can be similar to those caused by other illnesses such as a cold or flu. They include:

- Unexplained headaches, chest pains or muscular weakness
- Sickness, diarrhoea or stomach pains
- Sudden dizziness when standing up
- General lethargy

What to Do?

If anyone in your house has any of the symptoms outlined above get fresh air immediately, then go to your doctor and ask him/her to check for Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

Stop using the appliance immediately and do not use it again until it has been checked by a qualified service agent.

The amount of CO which the blood absorbs depends chiefly on two things: how much CO is in the air and the length of time of the exposure. Adverse effects of CO on humans are reduced by periods of breathing fresh air. The degree of recovery depends on the number and length of those periods. The general state of health and degree of physical activity of a person exposed to CO are other factors involved in the effects of Carbon Monoxide on the body.

Appendix E

Fire Safety Diagrams

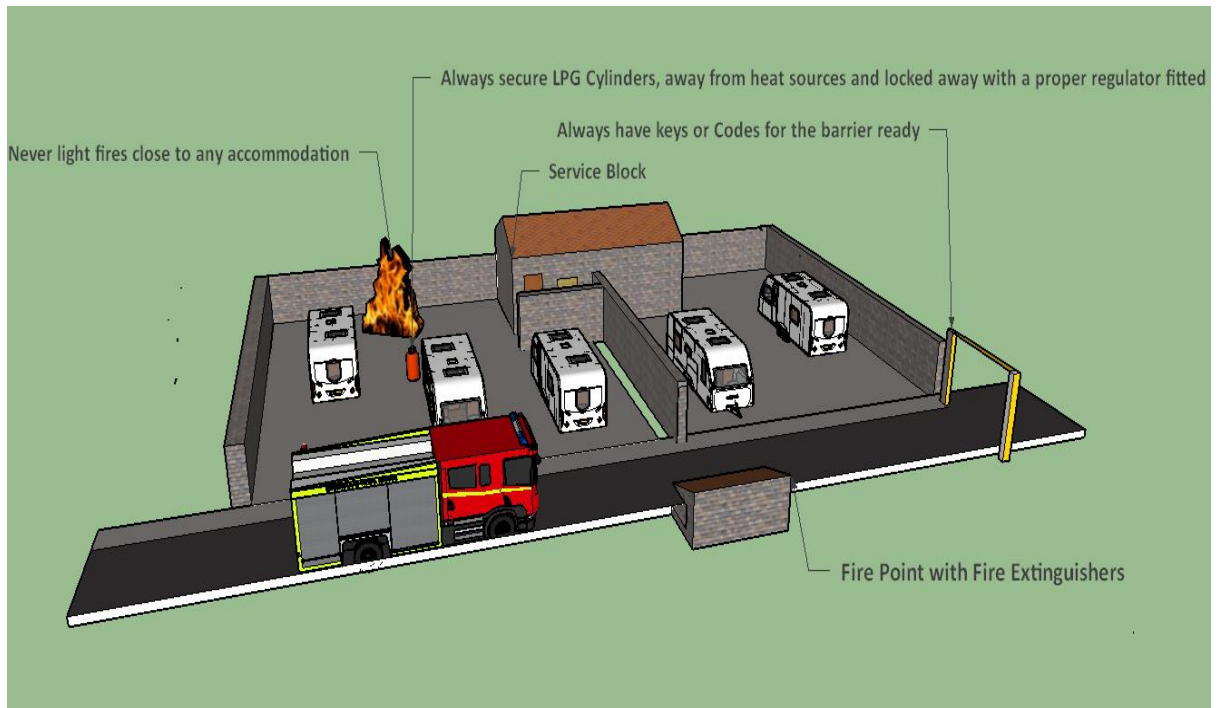


Figure 4 Fire Safety for Halting Sites

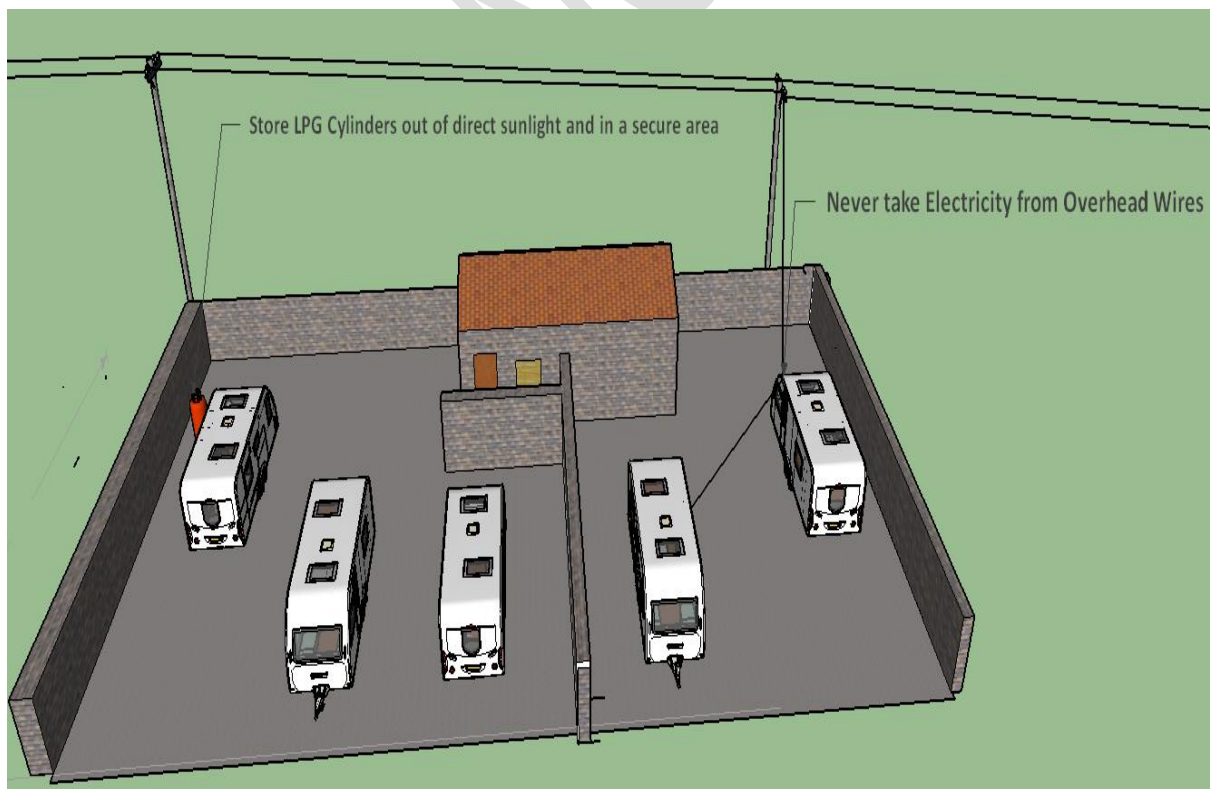


Figure 5 Dangers of Electricity & LPG

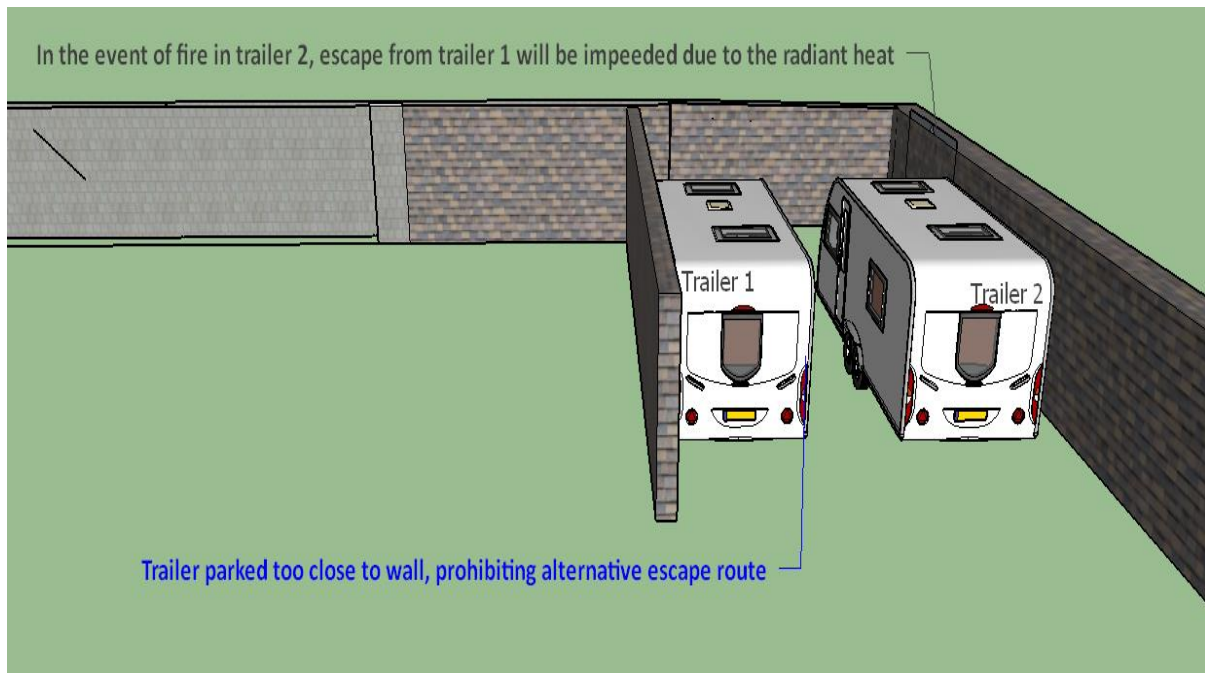


Figure 6 Fire Safety risks within bays

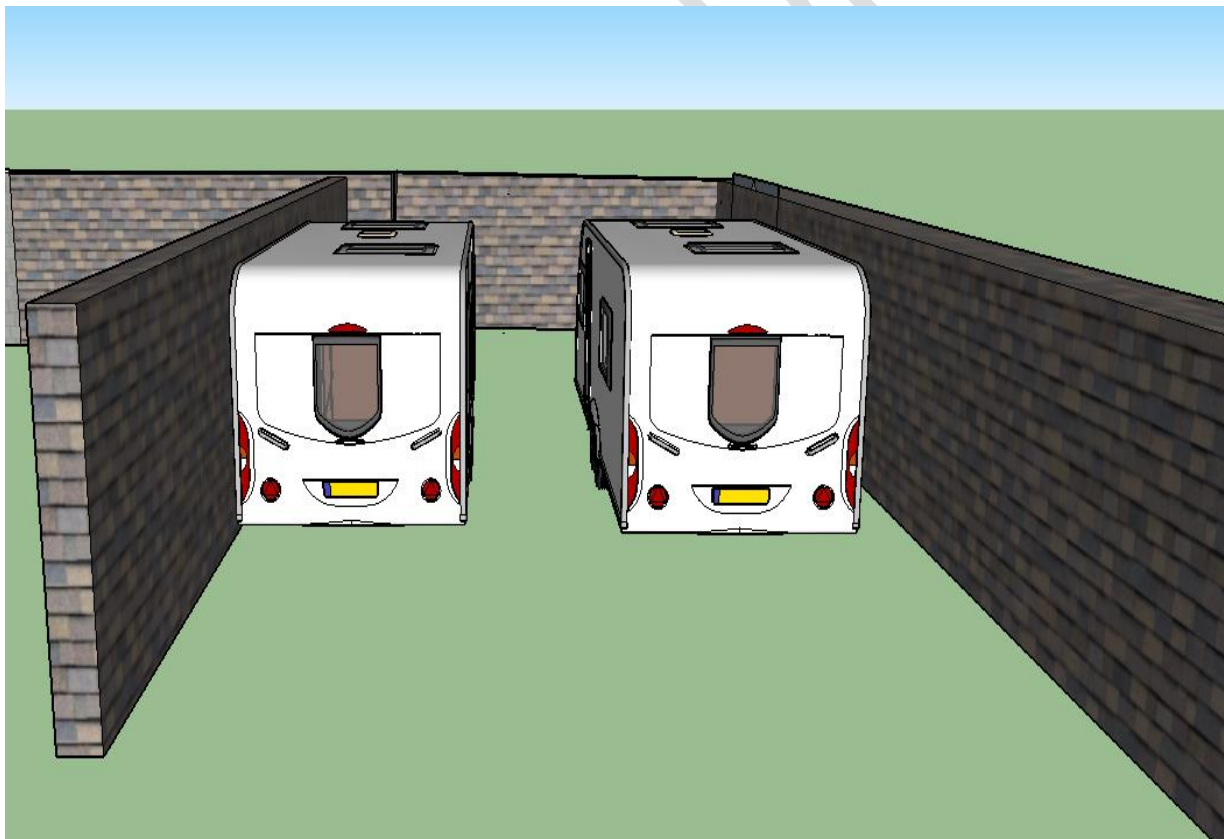


Figure 7 Alternative means of escape (route) blocked, trailer too close to the screen wall

Appendix F

Fire safety presentation for the Traveller Community

Slide 1



Slide 2

Do Not

- Take electricity from overhead electrical cables
- Overload electrical sockets
- Leave a chip pan unattended

Do

- Keep Trailers/mobile homes 6 metres apart
- Test smoke alarms weekly
- Have an escape plan and practice it
- Have an assembly point outside in a safe place in the event of a fire.
- Clean your chimney / flue regularly
- Have all heating appliances and boilers checked by a certified provider

TIPS TO STAY SAFE



CALLING THE EMERGENCY SERVICES



- Dial 999 or 112 (This is free from mobile phones)
- Be very clear and calm
- **Give land marks or alias name for the site**
- Answer all questions
- Be the last to hang up

DO NOT ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE HAS CALLED

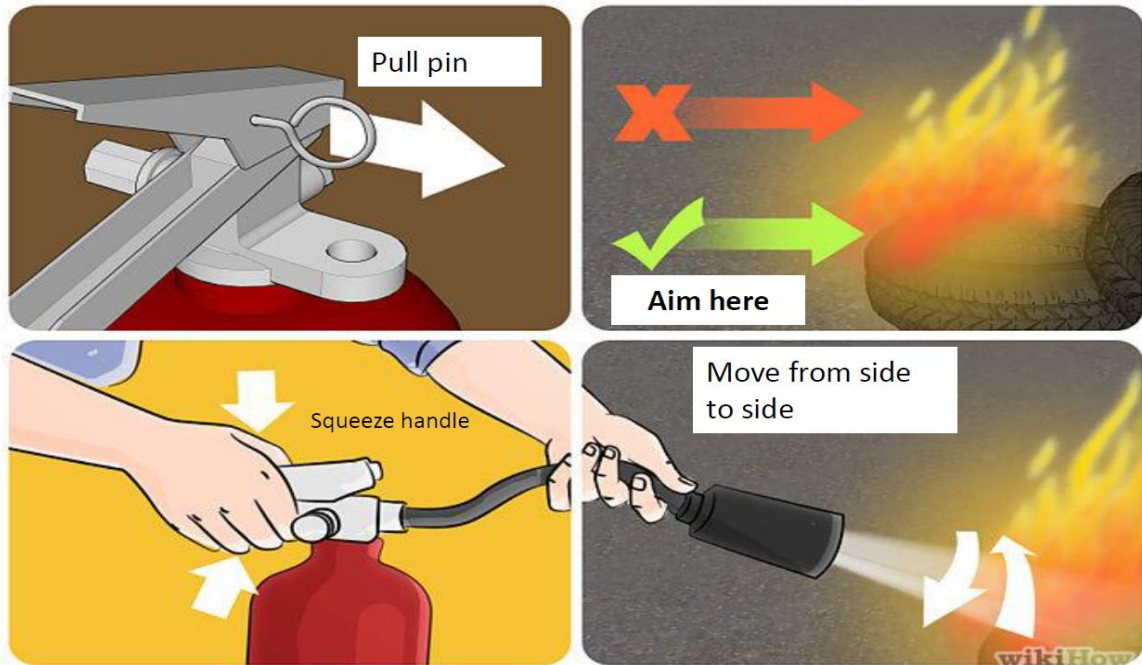
SITE ACCESS



Always have key codes or keys for barrier to allow emergency service access.

Slide 5

Fire Extinguisher use



Slide 6

FIRE BLANKET



IF IN DOUBT, GET OUT RING 999 /112 AND STAY OUT !

FIRE HOSE REELS



Electricity

Electricity can Kill

Never tamper with electricity or take it from;

- Overhead wires, or
- Another Caravan or home



Never overload electrical adapters. Always unplug non essential appliances at night before going to bed.

Slide 9

IGNITION SOURCES

Extension Leads should not be used like this!

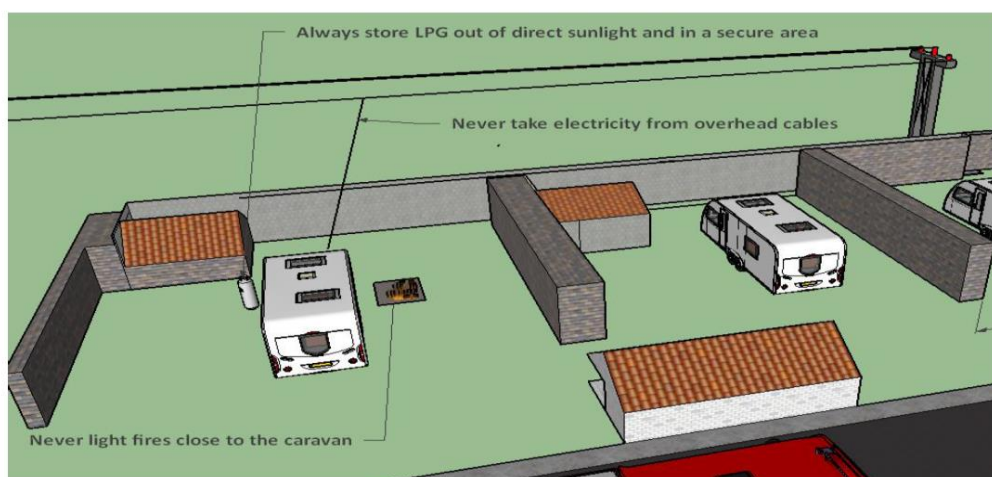


This happens when you do not unwind the cable

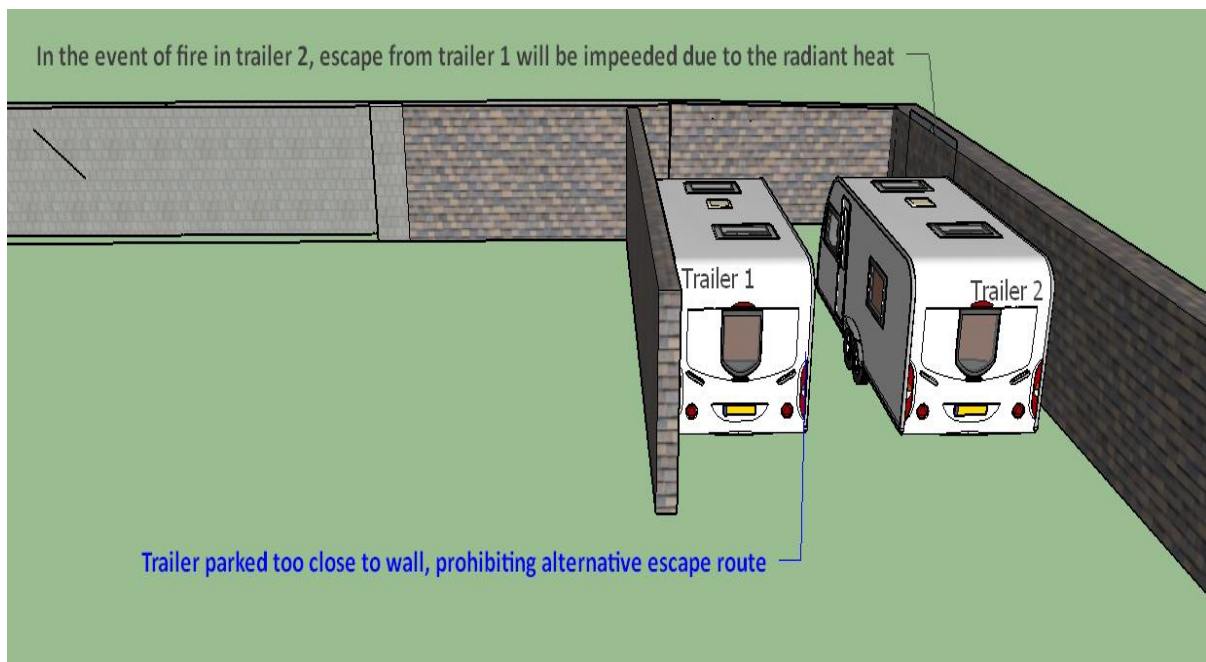


Slide 10

Onsite Fire Safety



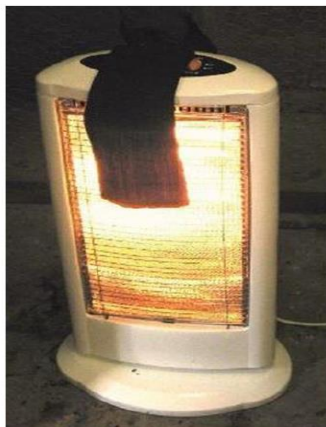
Slide 11



Slide 12

IGNITION SOURCES

Very hot exposed surface



Potential for gas leak



Slide 13

Never smoke in bed



Never overload electrical sockets

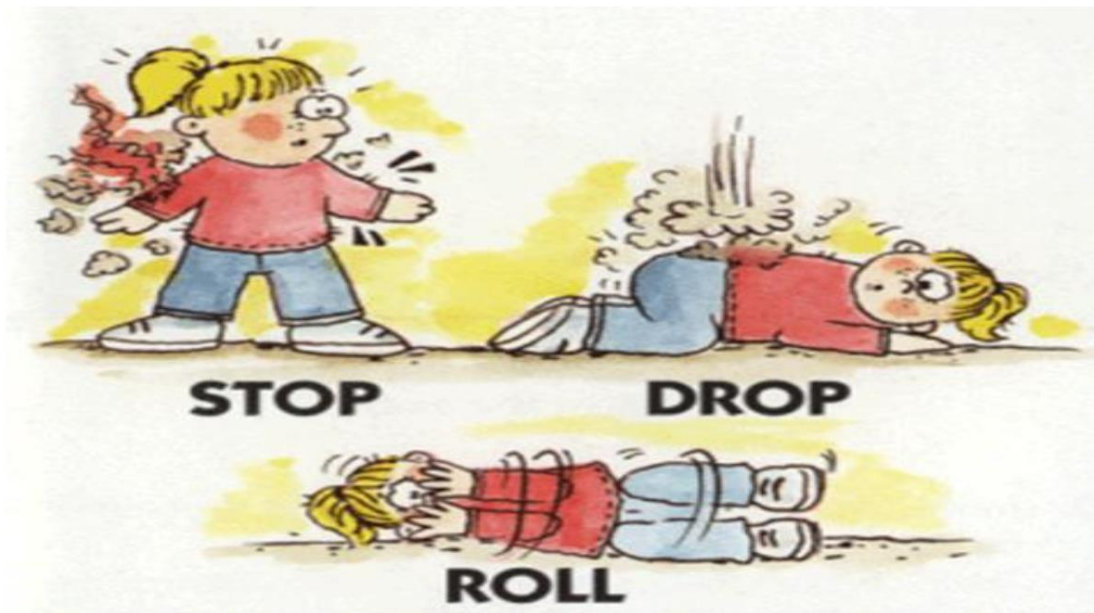


Always keep pot handles on the cooker away from children



Slide 14

Clothes on Fire



Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide alarms



Test Weekly by pressing the button

WORK

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



FIRE DETECTION

Smoke alarms should be tested weekly to make sure they are working. Batteries should never be removed to be used in toys or other appliances.



OPTICAL
with Hush

Slide 18

| DO | DON'T |
|---|--|
| Fit a Smoke Alarm | Let the Battery run down (Test at least weekly) |
| Fit a Carbon Monoxide Alarm | Let the Battery run down (Test at least weekly) |
| Take Special care when cooking | Leave chip pans/pans unattended |
| If you smoke use a suitable ashtray | Never smoke in bed |
| Keep Gas cylinders and other flammable fuels outside the caravan | Block air vents to prevent draughts |
| Turn off all non-essential electrical appliances at night or when leaving the caravan | Never leave young children asleep alone in a caravan at night |
| Always keep clothing away from open flames | Never take electricity from overhead cables |
| Always keep escape routes clear | Never store flammable fuels under the caravan |
| Have an escape plan, and practice it | Never block the site entrance in case of fire, emergency services need access |
| Always close the internal doors at night | Remove smoke alarm batteries, unless to replace with new ones |
| Clean all flues / chimneys at least once a year | Fit external doors with a lock/latch that is readily operated without a key, from the side approached by people (Escape route) |

- In the event of fire,
Get out, Stay out and
ring 999 /112



- Have an escape plan,
practice it and include
a designated meeting
point away from the
fire



Appendix G

Traveller Fire Safety Pictograph



Tips to stay safe

DO



DON'T



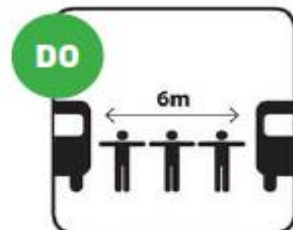
Don't take electricity from overhead cables



Don't overload sockets



Don't leave chip pans unattended



Do keep trailers/mobile homes six metres apart



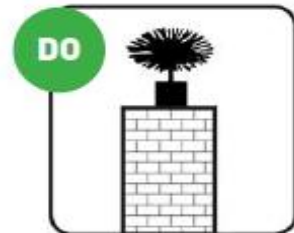
Do test smoke alarms every week



Do have an escape plan and practice it regularly



Do have a safe place to meet outside in the event of a fire



Do clean your chimney or flue at least once a year



Do have all heating appliances and boilers checked regularly by a certified provider

2

If there's a fire



Do have an escape plan and practice it regularly



If there's a fire – get out, stay out and call 999 or 112



Do make sure you can get out of a window if needed



Call 999 or 112



Do have a safe place to meet outside in the event of a fire

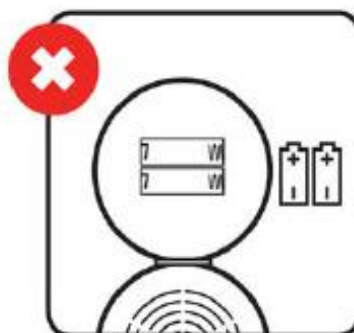
Smoke alarms save lives



Do fit a smoke alarm



Do test smoke alarms
every week



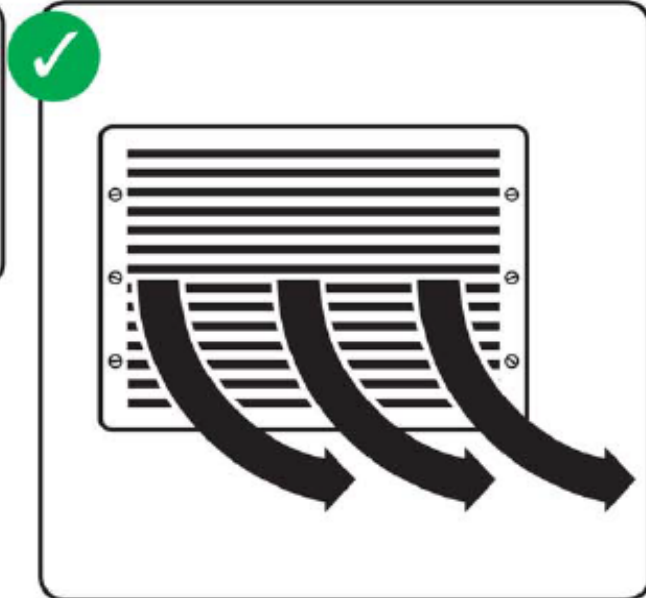
Don't remove batteries
from smoke or carbon
monoxide alarms

Carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odourless and poisonous gas that can kill you



Don't block vents



Do keep air vents clear



Do fit a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm and check it regularly



Do have gas heaters and boilers checked regularly

Electrics



Don't take electricity from overhead cables



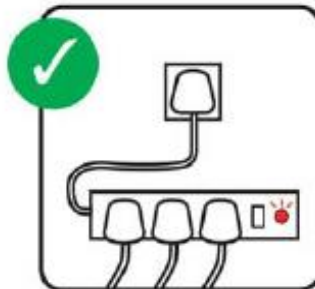
Don't run electrics from one trailer/mobile home to another



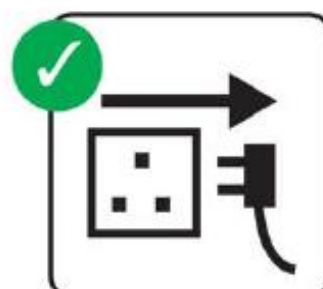
Do take electricity from a safe source



Don't overload sockets



Do use an adaptor with a lead



Do turn off heaters, cookers and unplug tv's when going to bed or leaving the trailer/mobile home

Heaters



Don't dry clothes on or right next to heaters



Do use a registered certified installer



Do have all heating appliances and boilers checked regularly by a certified provider

Indoor risks



Don't leave candles
unattended



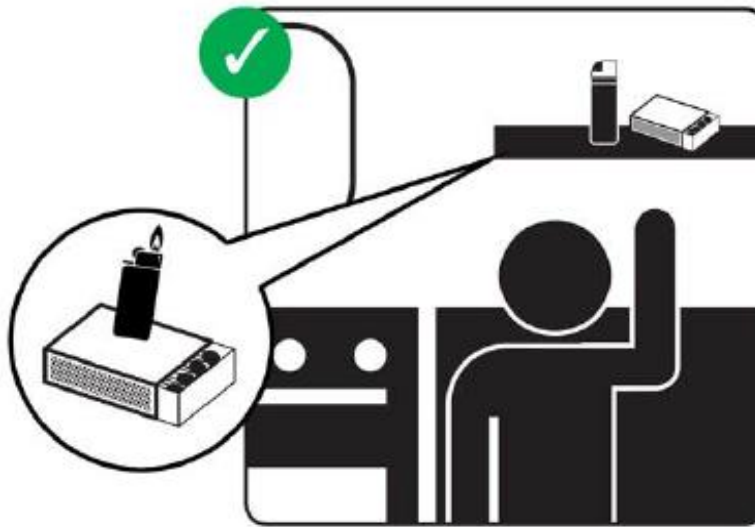
Do put candles in
secure holders



Do smoke outside
the trailer/mobile
home if possible



Don't smoke in bed –
smoking inside can be
dangerous



Do keep matches and lighters out of children's reach



**Don't use water on
chip pan fires**



Do use a fire blanket

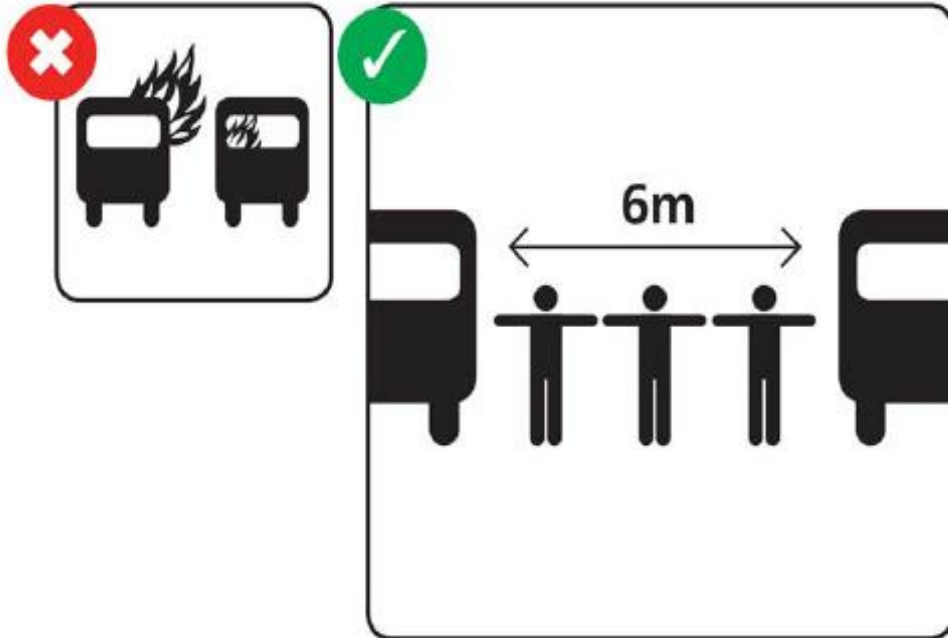


**Don't leave children
alone near cookers
or open fires**



**Do use a secure
deep fat fryer where
possible**

Outdoor safety



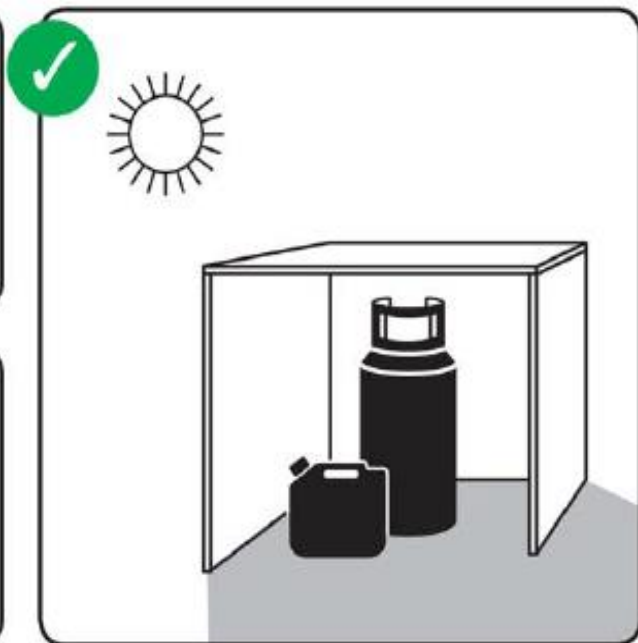
Do try to keep trailers/mobile homes six metres apart (that's roughly the length of three people standing in a line with their arms out)



Don't store fuel under your home

Do turn off gas cylinders when not in use

Do keep fuel six metres away from accommodation when not being used



Do keep fuel away from heat sources when not in use



Do keep cylinders upright and secure on a hard surface when in use



Don't let gas leak



**SMOKE AND CARBON
MONOXIDE ALARMS**

**SAVE
LIVES**



| DO | DON'T |
|---|---|
| Fit a Smoke Alarm | Let the Battery run down (Test at least weekly) |
| Fit a Carbon Monoxide Alarm | Let the Battery run down (Test at least weekly) |
| Take Special care when cooking | Leave chip pans/ pans unattended |
| If you smoke use a suitable ashtray | Never smoke in bed |
| Keep Gas cylinders and other flammable fuels outside the caravan | Block air vents to prevent draughts |
| Turn off all non-essential electrical appliances at night or when leaving the caravan | Never leave young children asleep alone in a caravan at night |
| Always keep clothing away from open flames | Never take electricity from overhead cables |
| Always keep escape routes clear | Never store flammable fuels under the caravan |
| Have an escape plan, and practice it | Never block the site entrance in case of fire, emergency services need access |
| Always close the internal doors at night | Remove smoke alarm batteries, unless to replace with new ones |

Table 2 Fire Safety Advice