

DERBYSHIRE RURAL SAFETY & CRIME PREVENTION GUIDE



Derbyshire Rural Safety and Crime Prevention Guide

Derbyshire Constabulary – Rural Crime Team

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Foreword

Angelique Foster

*Derbyshire Police and Crime
Commissioner*

I was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner to represent the public of Derbyshire and be their voice in policing. As part of my role, I am committed to make sure that every resident is kept safe and feels safe. Each individual community in our County faces unique challenges and my Police and Crime Plan seeks to address these specific needs. That is why I have made tackling Rural Crime one of my key priorities and expect to see Derbyshire Constabulary take a strong stance on fighting crime and protecting our rural residents and businesses.

Rural residents want to feel supported and to know there are enough resources to protect them and their livelihoods, wherever they live. I want to make sure, as your Commissioner, that this happens in Derbyshire.

Since I took up the role in May 2021, I have boosted funding for rural policing which has enabled Derbyshire Constabulary to increase its capacity in the investigation of rural crime with new technology and additional training.

I have strengthened the capabilities of our Rural Crime Team with all officers now trained as specialist wildlife investigators. The team has been prolific in its work to investigate rural crime with several high-profile operations leading to the recovery of thousands of pounds of farm goods.

On the operational side, I have invested in new technology including drones to ensure those officers called to investigate a rural crime are well equipped to do so. This has undoubtedly paid off with several successful policing operations and arrests. Similarly, working with the Constabulary, I have made it easier to report rural crime with call centre staff now trained in identifying rural crime incidents at the earliest opportunity to ensure the enquiry is allocated to the most appropriate



team. Investment has also enabled the creation of a dedicated rural crime reporting website, to increase confidence in reporting.

This Autumn, I hosted the first Rural Crime Awareness Week in collaboration with the force to raise awareness of the issues facing our rural communities and to bring attention to the work being undertaken to deliver a stronger policing response to these areas. This event, which also highlighted the services available to support rural residents and keep them safe, saw officers undertaking proactive and intelligence-led operations to disrupt rural crimes such as poaching and recover stolen agricultural property and equipment.

I am also funding The Willow Project, led by Rural Action Derbyshire, to deliver awareness training to help professionals identify the signs of domestic abuse in rural communities. This has also enabled the production of the award-winning short film, *The Willows*, which highlights the nature of domestic abuse in rural areas where isolation is often a barrier to help.

Wherever someone lives, be it in an isolated rural community, in a town or in Derby City, I expect Derbyshire Constabulary to provide a response that is appropriate and of a high standard. To this end, I will continue to hold the force and the Chief Constable to account to ensure officers understand the unique problems faced by rural residents and deliver an effective service to our rural communities.

We are fortunate to live in one of the safest and most beautiful counties in the country and I am determined to keep it that way. I hope you find the specialist advice on how to keep you, your family and your livelihood safe included in this guide useful. However, there is evidence that crime in our rural settings still is underreported so if you unfortunately become a victim of crime, I urge you to come forward and report it. By reporting crime, you will help provide Derbyshire Constabulary with a true picture of where risk and threat are greatest so that resources are allocated to the most appropriate areas.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, my key focus is on making sure that every resident of Derbyshire receives the best possible service from Derbyshire Constabulary, and that they are safe and feel safe, regardless of where they live. I want our rural communities to be confident that they will get the support they need when they need it.

Foreword

Assistant Chief Constable Michelle Shooter

The executive lead for Rural and Wildlife Crime at Derbyshire Constabulary

Derbyshire is a county that can be renowned for its variety, from the busy city centre to market towns and rural villages.

This variety is part of the reason our officers and staff love to live and work in Derbyshire, but it can also present challenges to us as a police force.

We know that the crimes that occur in rural areas are unique to the landscapes, wildlife, lifestyles, and industries. Often the remote locations where these incidents occur can make it seem harder to access assistance and support services when needed. This can include issues at home, with people feeling more isolated when experiencing abuse from a partner, family member or acquaintance/stranger.

Derbyshire Constabulary aims to support the wide range of communities that make Derbyshire their home, workplace, or holiday destination. We work to achieve this through not only responsive and visible policing, but also by taking a proactive and partnership approach to support our rural communities and those who may need to call upon our services.



The aim of this booklet is to reinforce the support already offered by our Rural Crime Team, who specialise in investigating rural, wildlife, and heritage crime across Derbyshire.

This team investigate a wide range of crimes such as illegal hunting, equipment theft, livestock worrying. By being able to specialise, our Rural Crime and Wildlife Officers can offer further understanding into how these issues affect you, your families, and livelihoods.

Please read through this booklet that we have compiled using this specialist knowledge of crimes that have occurred in rural Derbyshire. While we understand that even with every precaution it is not possible to eliminate the risk of crime completely, we hope it will give you an insight into what we do, and that we are always here to provide help should you need it.

Derbyshire Rural Safety and Crime Prevention Guide



Introduction

Derbyshire Constabulary operate across an area which is approximately 1000 square miles, with a population of around one million people.

Approximately 70% of Derbyshire is rural with the majority of the Peak District National Park lying to the north west of the county.

A sixth of England's population – more than 8 million people – live within a short distance of the county border, mainly in the large cities of Nottingham, Sheffield and Manchester.

This means that as well as specific rural and wildlife crime issues such as theft from farms and persecution of wildlife, these communities are also vulnerable to cross border criminality.

The National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) recognises the impact crime has on rural communities and identified within its 2022-2025 Rural Crime Strategy several rural crime priorities:

- 1. Farm machinery, plant, and vehicle theft***
- 2. Livestock offences***
- 3. Fuel theft***
- 4. Equine crime***
- 5. Fly tipping***
- 6. Poaching***

Every police force experiences varying levels of each type of crime.



Definition of Rural Crime

As yet there is no national definition of rural crime but currently Derbyshire Constabulary takes the approach that a rural crime is a crime that takes place in a rural location and includes:

- Farm and agricultural related crime: theft of, or damage to plant vehicles, equipment or livestock
- Wildlife and environmental related crime: animal cruelty, poaching, badger baiting, killing or taking of wild birds or damage of protected habitats
- Heritage related crime: theft, damage or removal of articles from historic sites.

We know that many members of rural communities can feel vulnerable due to many factors, including the remoteness of properties and the lack of easy access to infrastructure such as telecoms, the internet and some services.

Rural crime is of course not limited to agricultural crime issues and this guide is intended to provide all members of rural communities with information to help protect themselves and their communities. The guide covers some of the greatest areas of vulnerability which can affect rural communities, and key contact information for partner agencies who can provide help, advice and support.

If you want to find out more about the work of the Rural Crime Team you can follow them on Facebook at [/ruralcrimeteam](#) and Twitter [@DerbyshireRCT](#)

Contacting the Police

Emergency Calls

IF YOU ARE RINGING TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 999.

The 999 number is a 24-hour service and should only be used in situations where there is:

- Danger to life
- Use, or immediate threat of use, of violence
- A crime in progress
- Serious injury to a person
- An offender that has just been disturbed at the scene
- A need for immediate police attendance such as when a crime is about to be committed.

Non-Emergency Contact

We have several online methods for you to report non-emergency crime. This can be useful when you have limited signal or don't want to wait to speak to an operator.

Online reporting is monitored 24/7 and can be done via:

- **WEBSITE** – complete the online contact form www.derbyshire.police.uk/Contact-Us or use our live chat option to speak to an operator in real time.
- **FACEBOOK** – send us a private message to /DerbyshireConstabulary
- **TWITTER** – direct message our contact centre on @DerPolContact

THE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER IS 101.

This is also a 24-hour service. Calling this number will:

- Transfer you to the department or extension number you require
- Transfer you to an operator.



Operators will:

- Create a police incident, if appropriate, and record the circumstances of your call
- Assess the nature of the call and determine an appropriate grading, which will inform the response the call receives.

Controllers will, if required:

- Resource incidents as appropriate which could be serviced by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Police Officers or specialist officers such as rural crime, firearms officers and scenes of crime officers
- Carry out necessary intelligence checks on police databases to support that deployment.

Details you'll be asked for when you report an incident

If you contact us to report an incident you will be asked a series of questions:

- Your name
- The number you are calling from (if you have contacted us by phone)
- The location of the incident
- Your address and contact number
- Your date of birth
- What has happened, who was involved, when did it happen, where did it happen, how has it happened?

Take your time to answer the questions correctly and as clearly as possible. The operators need to get as much information from you so the controllers can inform officers of the circumstances, prior to them attending and any risk assessments can be carried out.

It is imperative that when reporting loss of property, you give identifying numbers such as Serial, Vin or Chassis numbers to the call taker at first contact.

Why is it important that I report suspicious activity to the police?

Members of the public often quote that they do not report incidents as no follow up is given to the information reported.

It is shown in the example below how we respond to information supplied. Your calls are important to us.

1. Member of the public reports a suspicious incident
2. Operator is assigned to record the details and an incident number is allocated
3. If deemed urgent, this is assigned to a police officer accordingly for action. It may be the third report we have had and link into a more serious crime
4. If non-urgent but no follow up is required this is still logged on our system as such
5. All incidents are checked daily by the Rural Crime Team and many other departments to identify emerging issues and glean intelligence, so even if no further action is required the information is looked at and may link into a larger picture, which may be beneficial in the future. It could be the missing piece of the jigsaw.

If a suspicious vehicle is reported, the information is available to both local officers and is shared with other police forces. The vehicles details are recorded on our systems which means it is far more likely to be stopped in the future and the occupants checked by an officer. This may well be on a different day to your report but does highlight the value of your call and how we will use it as part of our intelligence led approach to tackling and reducing crime.

If safe to do so, take a photograph. With the increase in travelling criminals from outside our county and the cloning of car registration plates, photos can really give us that little bit extra required.

All suspicious incidents should be reported so that intelligence enables us to pin point possible criminal activity taking place before any crime takes place. If it looks wrong it probably is.



Crime Prevention Advice

Reviewing your security and following some of the following advice may well assist in preventing you becoming a victim of crime. Pointing out to family, friends or neighbours any room for improvement in their security may also save them from becoming a victim.

Look at it from the criminal's point of view and ask yourself:

What's visible and worth taking?

What's the easiest way in and out?

Will I easily be seen or heard?

What would put me off?

Criminals look for easy opportunities. Don't make it easy for them.

General Security

Doors and Windows

- Ensure all doors and windows are shut and locked when not in use. Even when you are at home. Ensure windows and door frames are in good repair, with good quality window locks
- Fit good quality deadlocks conforming to the latest British Standards to all external doors
- Out buildings and sheds should be kept locked with contents such as tools kept in lockable cabinets or secured to the structure. Chain items together and pin to the floor with bolts into the concrete
- Do not leave tools such as oxy acetylene, cutting equipment, spades, bolt croppers or forklift trucks with keys in the ignition, in easy reach as these can be used to break in.
- Criminals rarely bring their own tools for fear of being stopped en-route, but will gladly use what's on offer on scene.

Security Lighting

- Install security lights that come on automatically when movements is detected during the hours of dusk and dawn
- Help make your property look occupied by fitting timer switches to lamps and radios, in different rooms and outbuildings and set them to come on at staggered times.

CCTV and Intruder Alarms

- We recommend investing in a set of wildlife cameras. They are wireless and can be hidden around your property, these are much more likely to capture images with evidential value as intruders will not be aware of their presence unlike overt CCTV
- Consider installing CCTV to provide formal surveillance to the most vulnerable areas of the property. Ensure images are of good quality and cameras cannot be tampered with, consider installing an audible and monitored intruder alarm system. This can be as complex or basic as you like. Some shed alarms are very cheap and can be rigged up as a pull pin trip wire that's very effective.



Boundary Security

Entrances & Exits

- Look closely at the perimeter of your land to ensure it is as secure as possible
- Install gates with appropriate locks
- Plant bushes and shrubs which make access difficult for trespassers, such as near windows
- If possible remove all private access points that are no longer used and establish a single gated entrance and exit
- Consider installing an entry control system (infra-red, intercom or keypad entry)
- Field gateways should be blocked, when not in use, with objects that are difficult to move to prevent or restrict access
- Consider looking at your property's boundary, ditches and bunds which are very effective at keeping vehicle access to your property limited to the gated areas.

Gates and Hinges

- Invert and cap gate hinges so that gates cannot be lifted off. Ensure fixing bolts cannot be removed
- Use good quality padlocks with covers so they cannot be easily cut off
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control large openings to yards
- Mark metal gates so as they are identifiable if stolen. And take photos of them.

The presence of many of these things is proven to deter would-be-thieves. The most effective of all advice available, is a gate on the entrance to your land.



Mental Health

Within policing, mental health issues are something we see on a daily basis. Poor mental health can be made worse by isolation, money worries and lack of access to support, which are all things that can play a part of life in a rural community. As such at the back of the booklet there are a number of helplines and resources, should you or someone you know be struggling with their mental health.



Vehicle, Farm Machinery and Plant Security

Keys & Locks

- Where practical, vehicles should not be left in a visible place when not in use
- When vehicles or plant equipment are kept outside they should be locked and the keys secured in your possession or in a locked key safe
- Consider upgrading lock and ignition keys to the non-generic type in the case of farm machinery such as tractors and telehandlers
- Consider the use of hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors. You may require a combination of the above to meet insurance requirements
- Blocking in smaller vehicles such as quad bikes with larger machinery is also advisable.

Security Markings

- All property including vehicles should be uniquely marked, photographed and recorded somewhere safe. This should include serial, chassis and model numbers
- Use property marking to uniquely mark all types of property
- There are companies recommended by the police such as Datatag and Smart Water which will greatly assist police in identifying your property should it be recovered
- Keep a list of your assets, and write down the vin, chassis or serial numbers. Take photos of them and any identifying marks or irregularities
- Include your post code and property name or number in a non-obvious place
- On vehicles such as tractors and diggers add unique numbers or other identifiers to the roof to aid aerial identification by the police. This can also be done to 4x4 vehicles
- Popular options include stamping, etching, UV marking and DNA products.

Tracker and Data Tagging

Many vehicles and items of plant equipment are recovered due to having such technology installed. This can be either soon after a theft or many months later, and is highly recommended. They often assist in lowering insurance premiums.

Tracker Devices

We recommend using Asset Trackers. They are designed to last for many years without being charged, and do not transmit 24hrs a day. They send an alert once a day and therefore are less likely to be found by thieves who are looking for them with tracker locators. **Cantrack** <https://www.cantrack.com/> are a very popular choice but there are other suppliers.

Additionally, GPS Trackers are designed especially to provide security for cars, motorcycles, caravans, construction and agricultural vehicles and equipment, **TRACKER** combines stolen vehicle recovery technology with fleet management functions. There are various options providing varying levels of security cover such as geo-fencing to notify of any unauthorised vehicle movement from a given area.

If items fitted with this technology are stolen the police can use **TRACKER** receivers in their patrol vehicles. The Rural Crime Team have such detection equipment.

Further information is available via www.tracker.co.uk



Register Property

Register your property for free at www.immobilise.com, it only takes a couple of minutes and once you have registered you will have a better chance of getting your property back if it's lost or stolen.

The National Plant and Equipment Register (TER)

TER operates the UK national database of owned plant and equipment. The company holds more equipment ownership records than any other organisation in Europe.

The TER database is managed and operated by TER staff who have more expertise and knowledge across the full range of plant and equipment than any other organisation in Europe.

What is TER Registration?

The logging of equipment fleet and owner details on TER's database.

***Further information is available via, www.ter-europe.org
Or by calling 01225 464599***

CESAR Equipment Registration Scheme

What exactly is CESAR?

CESAR is an equipment registration and security scheme using Datatag hi-tech security markings that acts as a powerful deterrent to theft and an invaluable aid in recovery, in the event of theft.

How is a machine protected?

CESAR registered machines are fitted with a sophisticated Datatag multi-layered security system that gives each machine its own unique 'fingerprint', that is impossible for thieves to remove. Datatag security is made up of four elements, both visible to act as a deterrent and covert to aid identification and recovery. Firstly, a number of tamper proof registration plates are securely fitted to the machine's chassis. Secondly, a number of Datatag RFID transponders, each the size of a grain of rice, are hidden in the machinery each with its own unique programmed code. Thirdly, the machine has patches of chemical forensic liquid DatatagDNA painted on it. The liquid DNA also has microscopic Datatag Datadots® suspended in it which are barely visible to the eye.

*Further information is available via,
www.cesarscheme.org
www.datatag.co.uk Or by calling 03450 700440*





Livestock Worrying and Theft

National rural stakeholders such as the National Farmers Union (NFU), describe livestock worrying as a major concern to rural communities. It is not a civil (private prosecution) matter when livestock is attacked or worried, it is a matter for the police to investigate.

Livestock attacks are not criminal damage as animals alone cannot commit a criminal offence. It is the owner/person in charge of the dog that is liable. There are several criminal offences in relation to this issue.

Livestock Worrying

Advice to dog owners

Recent findings nationally indicate that dogs responsible for attacks on livestock, in particular sheep, occur mainly when they have escaped from a home or garden rather than not being kept under control or on a lead when near livestock. Be aware that legislation allows farmers to shoot dogs worrying livestock on agricultural land.

- Ensure your dog cannot stray from the home
- If someone else is in charge of your dog ensure they keep it under close control
- When in or near fields with livestock, keep your dog on a lead and under control at all times
- Familiarise your dog with livestock from a young age, particularly if you live near to or take your dog where there is livestock nearby
- Always check for livestock in fields when walking your dog
- Have a distraction for your dog in any situation such as a favourite toy or treat
- Keep it in sight
- Report sightings of out of control dogs to local farmers or the police.

Advice to owners of livestock

- Check your gates and fencing are secure and in good repair
- Erect hard wearing signs asking dog owners to keep pets on their leads. The Rural Crime Team can supply these
- During lambing season reroute footpaths temporarily if possible
- Report any issues to the police.





Theft of livestock

- Check fences and gates regularly
- Regularly keep a count of stock
- Ensure stock is marked appropriately
- Where possible keep stock near to farm buildings
- Consider fitting alarm systems where appropriate
- Ensure suspicious activity is reported
- Consider the use of products such as micro dot systems which can be attached to the fleece of sheep allowing them to be identified if stolen
- If you are unfortunate enough to become a victim ensure you provide full details of breed, markings, age and sex of animals to the police.

***Further information can be found via the below website regarding Operation Bo-Peep and micro dot systems provided by them www.trace-in-metal.com
Or call 0330 2233014***

Fuel Theft

The incidence of fuel theft rises and falls dependent on the overall price of fuel. When prices are high there tends to be an increase. When the price drops so does the number of thefts. Diesel from farm storage tanks, farm vehicles and home heating fuel tanks can be prevented by:

- Storing diesel in a secure fuel tank within a bund and use good quality locks
- Site heating and diesel fuel tanks as far as practicable out of sight from roads
- Avoid siting diesel storage tanks in isolated areas such as outlying buildings which are easily accessible
- Consider fitting alarm beams in the immediate vicinity of storage tanks
- Consider using a mobile bowser that could be removed to a secure place when not in use
- Consider the use of a 'diesel dye' that makes your diesel traceable and therefore less attractive to thieves
- Report incidents of suspicious activity to the police and if possible record vehicle details and descriptions of people involved
- Avoid leaving machinery in isolated areas such as fields when not in use
- Reporting suspicious activity and incidents of theft to the police.





Equine Crime

Many of the measures already listed for protecting buildings, vehicles and stock will assist in preventing equine related crime, along with some of the further measures.

- Take colour photographs of your animals in both summer and winter
- If your animals have scars or other identifiable features ensure these are photographed along with where they are situated on the body
- Keep any passports secure
- Security marking of animals such as microchips, hoof branding and freeze marking are good measures to take
- Consider tagging technology for tack equipment such as saddles
- Consider tracking technology and tagging for trailers and associated vehicles
- Lock doors when tack rooms are not in use
- Keep key holders to a minimum and keep a record of who has a key.

Reporting Equine Crime or 'Fly grazing'

Problems with 'fly grazing' should be reported to the Local Authority for the area.

Crimes such as theft and burglary should be reported to Derbyshire Constabulary.

We recommend you join Derbyshire Horse Watch if you keep horses to stay up-to-date and receive pertinent local information. Please contact the Rural Crime Team DRCT@derbyshire.police.uk

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can occur at any time, in any location and to any person. However, there are a number of characteristics of rural life that can often exacerbate the effects of abuse and leave victims suffering for longer periods than those in towns and cities.

Firstly, it is important to understand what domestic abuse is. For many years the term domestic violence was used, however, this does not cover the full scope of abuse that can happen in a domestic setting. Domestic abuse can include a single incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.

For many the rural isolation is one of the main draws to living in an area such as the Peak District or the Derbyshire Dales, however, that same isolation can mean that domestic abuse, which is based on isolating people from friends, family and support networks, can be more likely and last for longer periods.

That isolation can also be compounded by poor public transport links and inadequate mobile phone reception and internet access. And rural victims of abuse can sometimes struggle to access support services – which

are more often based in built up areas.

Rural life, particularly for those in farming communities, is typically based on traditional roles which can see women in particular marginalised in their role within the family. This can lead to isolation not only from the wider world but also from those in their communities – making them more likely to be potential victims of abuse.

The community they live in is also a potential factor when it comes to the impact of abuse in rural settings. With a tight-knit village it can be very hard for individuals to report concerns about potential abusers when they are likely to be very closely involved with them in village life.

There are many excellent services, detailed on page 36, that are able to support victims of abuse no matter their location, but it is absolutely key that everyone takes their own individual responsibility to report matters when they are concerned. Abuse is never acceptable – whether it be in a city, town, village or hamlet – and the force, along with partners, will work together to ensure that victims are supported and the abuse stops.



Poaching & Wildlife Crimes

Due to the rural make up of Derbyshire, poaching and other wildlife offences are common at different times of the year but are not solely restricted to these areas. There are numerous pieces of legislation protecting different types of wildlife to varying degrees.

Poaching is the term generally used where persons trespass on private land or waterways with the intention of taking a particular animal such as hares, deer, fish, rabbits or pheasants.

It is not always easy to distinguish legal activity from illegal activity as there are many permitted activities which can involve the taking of game or other wildlife which can appear very similar to illegal activity, both during the day and night.

The most common way of finding out poaching has taken place, will be vehicle tracks across your land and possibly animal carcass left at the scene. We need you to take photos and report this to us. Its imperative we know when and where poachers have been so that we can look to proactively patrol these areas, in order to prevent and deter this practice.

Common Poaching Offences Include:

- **HARE COURSING** which is the pursuit of hares during the daytime using lurcher type dogs

This usually involves several persons entering farm land on foot or using 4x4 vehicles to hunt for hares. Sometimes betting takes place

- **FISH POACHING** – The trade in illegal fishing has become big business with links to organised crime. Salmon, trout, eels and carp can fetch thousands of pounds on the illegal markets. Poaching can essentially be defined as fishing, attempting to or having fished without permission of the owner or controller of fishing rights. Such permission is invariably gained via purchasing a day permit, club permit, or joining a syndicate, although there are certain waters fishable without charge by anglers in possession of a valid rod licence
- **THE ILLEGAL HUNTING OF DEER, FOXES AND BADGERS** or other mammals at night using dogs and high powered lights to spot animals, which is referred to as ‘lamping’
- **BADGER BAITING** – Offenders will often turn up in vehicles with small terrier type dogs, equipped with digging equipment. Signs of their activity will be fresh square patches of disturbed land near to badger sets. Offenders often lose their dogs down the holes and will proclaim to have done so accidentally whilst out walking. They may ask a farmer for help to retrieve them. This must not be done, as badgers are protected along with their sets. Please contact the police should you suspect any interference with badger sets

- **RAPTOR PERSECUTION** – includes poisoning, shooting, trapping, habitat destruction and nest destruction/disturbance. In the UK Birds of Prey are a protected species and therefore any criminal offences committed against these species are covered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

- **BAT PERSECUTION** – In Britain all bat species and their roosts are legally protected, by both domestic and international legislation. This means you may be committing a criminal offence if you:

- Deliberately take, injure or kill a wild bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats
- Damage or destroy a place used by bats for breeding or resting (roosts) (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat of a species found in the wild in the EU (dead or alive) or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.





I suspect a poaching or wildlife offence. What should I do?

If you see persons you suspect are engaged in such activity report it to the police straight away providing as much detail as possible,

- A description of what you can see happening or have found
- The location. Use the what3words App to give a precise location
- Descriptions of persons, vehicles registration numbers, while remaining out of sight of any possible offenders to ensure your safety
- Any equipment they have with them
- Details of dogs or firearms present
- Only if safe to do so take pictures.

Preventing Poaching

There are various ways of preventing the incidence of poaching which include:

- Report all incidents and suspicious activity to the police
- Restricting vehicle access to farm land wherever possible, by closing off track entrances to fields that are infrequently used
- Using large heavy objects which can be moved with a machine to block any entrances, which are more frequently used or in gaps where appropriate
- Ensuring fences and hedges are maintained to prevent easy vehicle access
- Consider visible trenches in appropriate locations to prevent vehicle access, particularly where other means of enclosure are not possible
- Consider physical bunds as effective barriers to entering land
- Site game bird release pens and feeders out of sight or make attempts to camouflage them
- Be visible and spend time visiting the more isolated areas of your land to deter poaching
- Consider using trail cameras where appropriate
- Share information with neighbours
- Join a Farm Watch group in your area.

For further information about your local Farm Watch or any of the methods above, contact DRCT@derbyshire.police.uk





Illegal Off Road Vehicle Use

The use of motor vehicles on 'unsurfaced roads' has been an emotive issue in the past, and has often caused a reason for complaint in rural areas. It's clear that it is the irresponsible and illegal use of motor vehicles by the minority that exacerbates the problem and in Derbyshire we are looking to tackle this head on.

By requesting help from the recreational user groups, such as mountain bikers, horse riders and walkers, and prescribed vehicle organisations such as **Trail Riders Fellowship** (*TRF* <https://www.trf.org.uk>) **Green Lane Association** (*GLASS* <https://www.glass-uk.org/>) and **Peak District Vehicle User Group** (*PDVUG* <https://www.facebook.com/pdvug/>) the DRCT have looked to shine a light on the anti-social users of the countryside.

If you experience vehicles using footpaths, cycle paths, bridle ways or open moorland then we want to know. There are many paths that will appear to be unsuitable for motor vehicle use, but will be a Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT) or unclassified roads, which has proven rights of way for motor vehicles.

Anyone requiring details about which routes are on the 'list of streets' and Definitive Map detailing such routes should contact the relevant Local Authority for their area.

Temporary Restriction Orders (TRO's) can be used by Local Authorities to limit vehicular access which is often done seasonally during the winter months, to prevent damage and erosion to these rights of way with vehicular rights of way. These should be clearly marked and again we want to know.

Sites of specific scientific interest are areas of land which are legally protected, anyone causing damage to such areas risks substantial fines.

Persons who use 'green lanes' should:

- Use only motor vehicular rights of way. It is illegal to drive on footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways or over open land without the owners permission
- Make sure you and your vehicle are fully road legal
- Be courteous to other users and landowners
- Travel slowly and in small groups
- Keep to the defined track.

There are several offences which can be used to deal with the illegal off road use of mechanically propelled vehicles such as,

Road Traffic Act 1988, section 34 makes it an offence to drive, without lawful authority, a mechanically propelled vehicle on:

- Common land
- Moorland
- Other land of any description not being part of a road
- Public footpath
- Bridleway
- Restricted byway
- Except in emergencies.

**It is not an offence to park within 15 yards of a road (being a road on which a motor vehicle may lawfully be driven) for the purpose of parking the vehicle on that land.*

Police Reform Act 2002, section 59

Where a motor vehicle is used in a careless, inconsiderate manner or is ridden off road causing or likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to any member of the public, police have powers to stop the rider/driver. If following a warning the person continues to offend, police can seize and remove the vehicle.

I am affected by illegal off road driving. What should I do?

- Make a note of any registration numbers, descriptions of vehicles and persons involved, take pictures if safe to do so. The vehicles that are most likely to be causing a nuisance will often not be displaying any vehicle registration plates
- Ensure that vehicular access is limited where possible and which does not interfere with a right of way
- Report incidents to police
- Make your Local Authority aware if there are ongoing issues with particular rights of way.



Heritage Crime

What is it?

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings. Heritage assets are sites that are considered to have a value to the heritage of England and include listed buildings, scheduled monuments, World Heritage Sites, conservation areas, protected marine sites, registered battle fields, military crash sites and even sites which may be undesignated but acknowledged as important.

In addition, there are a wide range of heritage assets that are not designated, but are familiar to us and valued by local people, for example, churches, metal railings, village pumps, bollards, and sandstone walls.

Clear examples are the theft of lead from church roofs, or stealing metal plaques from war memorials, or damaging land surrounding ancient monuments by vehicle usage or campfires.

Unlawful Metal Detecting - 'Nighthawking'

'Nighthawking' is a term used in the United Kingdom to describe unlawful metal detecting on farmland, moorland, archaeological sites and other areas of archaeological interest, usually in order to steal coins and other artefacts for their historical and financial value.

Nighthawking refers to the fact that such illegal activity is often undertaken at night to avoid detection and arrest. Although this is deceiving as it also occurs during the day.

It can occur anywhere in the country, but counties such as Derbyshire are particularly vulnerable due to the rich heritage.

The removal of any object from land without the landowner's permission may amount to an offence of theft. It is also an offence to metal detect on a scheduled monument without a licence or to fail to report the discovery of potential items of treasure.

The historic objects and artefacts that are recovered are often kept in private collections or sold for personal profit. Because they are stolen property, the finders are unlikely to report their finds and valuable historical data is lost for good.

Incidents of crime against heritage assets, including unlawful metal detecting should be reported to the police.



Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.

VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY MAY:

- Not be paid for their work or be underpaid
- Have poor living conditions
- Not recognise they are being exploited
- Be unable to leave their situation due threats, violence, coercion or isolation.



**Derbyshire
Victim Services**



Derbyshire Victim Services

Here for a Safer Derbyshire

If you have been a victim of crime, it can be an upsetting and confusing time. Derbyshire Victim Services (DVS) is here to provide both the public and victims of crime with easily accessible information, advice and links to local and national support services. It helps ensure people can self-refer to support services and access information on a wide variety of different crime types. It also offers people the opportunity to report a crime and provides advice on what to do if somebody has been a victim of crime.

Whether you have been affected by crime – or you know someone who has – this website could help. It offers advice for those affected by crime and will provide support, information and advice for the public and victims of crime alike. If you have been the victim of a crime, it is important that you understand the steps that come next and how to receive the support you need.

For more information visit this link:

www.derbyshirevictimservices.co.uk

The DVS website has been created to support victims of crime, giving people access to the different types of help they may need from just one place. The aim is to ensure that every victim of crime or anti-social behaviour has access to the best possible support service.

On the website you will find useful information and contact details which have been brought together with help from victim services, the police, local authorities, the fire and rescue services, health services, voluntary organisations and specialist support groups.

Derbyshire Victim Services, along with five other organisations, have been commissioned to provide victim services by the Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire. Derbyshire Victim Services are delivered by the charity Remedi, an independent charity offering a flexible and proactive support service for people affected by crime and anti-social behaviour. They have specially trained staff

and volunteers who can offer information, practical help and emotional support. The charity has also been contracted to deliver a targeted support service for young people who have been victims of crime and this service can be accessed through Derbyshire Victim Services or via the Got Your Back website www.gotyourback.tv

Derbyshire Victim Services is free, confidential and available to everyone. You can contact Derbyshire Victim Services whether you want to report the crime to the police or not – help is available whatever decision you make.

For help and support:

Website: www.derbyshirevictimservices.co.uk

Tel: 0800 612 6505

Text: DVS to 82228

Useful Contacts and Sources of Information

There are numerous agencies and businesses which can offer services and detailed information regarding many of the issues contained in this publication.

If you require detailed information or advice on a specific issue it is recommended that you visit the relevant website, or make contact via email or telephone with the organisation which seems most appropriate.

Many of the organisations often cover more than one particular issue or area of business. Many will also have details on their websites to numerous other valuable sources of information and other organisations not listed here.

Information about all different types of crime can be found on the Derbyshire Constabulary website www.derbyshire.police.uk/

Animals and Wildlife

Royal Society for the Protection of Animals

www.rspca.org.uk

To report an abused or injured animal call their cruelty line
0300 1234 999

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

www.rspb.org.uk | Wildlife advice **01767 693690**

Natural England

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england
Enquiries call **0300 060 3900**

For suspected wildlife pesticide poisoning call **0800 321 600**

British Association for Shooting & Conservation

basc.org.uk | Call **01244 573 000**

National Wildlife Crime Unit

www.nwcu.police.co.uk

Crime Prevention

Derbyshire Police

www.derbyshire.police.uk/

Immobilise

www.immobilise.com

Tracker

www.tracker.co.uk

TER

www.ter-europe.org

CESAR

www.cesarscheme.org

Datatag

www.datatag.co.uk

Crimestoppers Rural Crime

Crimestoppers Rural Crime Hotline

The National Farmers' Union has partnered with Crimestoppers to provide this 100% anonymous rural crime reporting service.

www.crimestoppers-uk.org/campaigns-media/campaigns/stamp-out-rural-crime#

0800 783 0137

Domestic Abuse

If you do not feel able to report the situation to the police, you are still able to contact various organisations for support:

Crossroads

www.crossroadsderbyshire.org | **01457 856675**

Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

A local service dedicated to tackling domestic abuse, one point of contact for support, advice and referral into Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support Services, local organisations delivering domestic abuse support services in your area

call **08000 198 668**

email: derbyshiredahelpline@theelmfoundation.org.uk
derbyshiredahelpline@theelmfoundation.org.uk

deaf or hard of hearing text **07534 617252**

For more information about domestic abuse
www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/domesticabuse

Galop (for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people)

www.galop.org.uk | **0800 999 5428**

Men's Advice Line

www.mensadvice.org.uk | **0808 801 0327**

Rape Crisis (England and Wales)

www.rapecrisis.org.uk | **0808 802 9999**

SV2 support victims of sexual violence

www.sv2.org.uk | **01773 746 115**

Sexual Abuse and Incest Line

www.sailderbyshire.org.uk | **0800 028 2678**

Stalking Helpline

0808 802 0300

If you are concerned that you or someone you know may be a perpetrator, there is support available.

The helpline also takes calls from (ex)partners, friends and relatives who are concerned about perpetrators.

Respect

A phonenumber for men and women who recognise they are harming their partners and families which gives specialist advice and guidance to help people change their behaviour. www.respect.uk.net

Telephone: **0808 8024040**

Email: info@respectphonenumber.org.uk

Fire and Road Safety

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

www.derbys-fire.gov.uk/

General enquiries **01773 305305**

CREST Derbyshire www.crestderbyshire.org/

Firearms

Derbyshire Police Firearms Licensing

<https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fi/af/firearms-licensing/>

or call **101**

Health and Safety / Environmental / Farming

Health and Safety Executive

www.hse.gov.uk

Advisory Team enquiries **0300 003 1747**

Environment Agency

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

General enquiries call **03708 506 506**

Flood line call **0345 988 1188**

Incident Hotline call **0800 807060**

Defra

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

General enquiries call **03459 33 55 77**

National Farmers Union www.nfuonline.com

Country Land Owners Association

www.cla.org.uk

British Horse Society

www.bhs.org.uk

Heritage Crime

Historic England

historicengland.org.uk

Mental Health

If you feel you need some support with your mental health there are a number of local and national support services that can offer help. Your GP who can make referrals into support services for you, or you could contact one of the below for self-help strategies.

Rural Action Derbyshire

Rural Action Derbyshire offer a lot of support for those living in rural settings, from support with transport, money and mental health being amongst them. Including a Chaplaincy service helping farming families through difficult situations such as animal disease, family problems, mental ill-health and the demands of farming processes.

www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

or contact them on their confidential Chaplain Service number

07710 088 972

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

For information on the Police and Crime Commissioner
www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk | **0300 122 6000**

Rethink – Derbyshire Recovery and Peer Support Service

Derbyshire Recovery and Peer Support Service support people who are having difficulties with their mental health across the whole spectrum of mental illnesses. They can offer targeted goal-focused support, developing peer support and volunteer opportunities across Derbyshire, and also peer support groups where there is a need

01773 734989

National Mental Health Support

No Panic

No Panic is a charity who support people with anxiety disorders and help them on their road to recover.

www.nopanic.org.uk | **0844 967 4848**

Samaritans

Are a Charity dedicated to taking calls from those struggling with thoughts of suicide, they can be contacted for support 24/7.

www.samaritans.org/ | **116 123**

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery helpline

Information and advice on modern slavery.

<https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/>

08000 121 700

Derbyshire Police 101 or **0300 122 8057** and ask for

Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit. (non-emergency – 999 if emergency)

Email: mshtu@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

mshtu@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk (Mon - Fri, office hours only)

The Salvation Army

Immediate and intensive support to ensure victims of trafficking are given the best possible chance of recovery.

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery> **0300 303 8151**

Migrant Help

Support services for adult victims of human trafficking.

<https://www.migranthelpuk.org/supporting-survivors> **0808 8010 503**

Eaves' Poppy Project

Support, advocacy and accommodation for trafficked women.

<https://www.eavesforwomen.org.uk/> | **020 7735 2062**

Kalayann

Advice, advocacy and support services for migrant domestic workers.

<http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/> | **020 72432943**

Medaille Trust

Helps women, young men and children who have been freed from human trafficking.

<https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/> | **0800 06 999 16**

UK Grid Reference Finder

Instructions: Simply right click on the map to find a grid reference at that point. Enter a location search below to zoom to the approximate location.

Post Code

 Go

Location (Road , Town)

 Go

Grid Reference

 Go

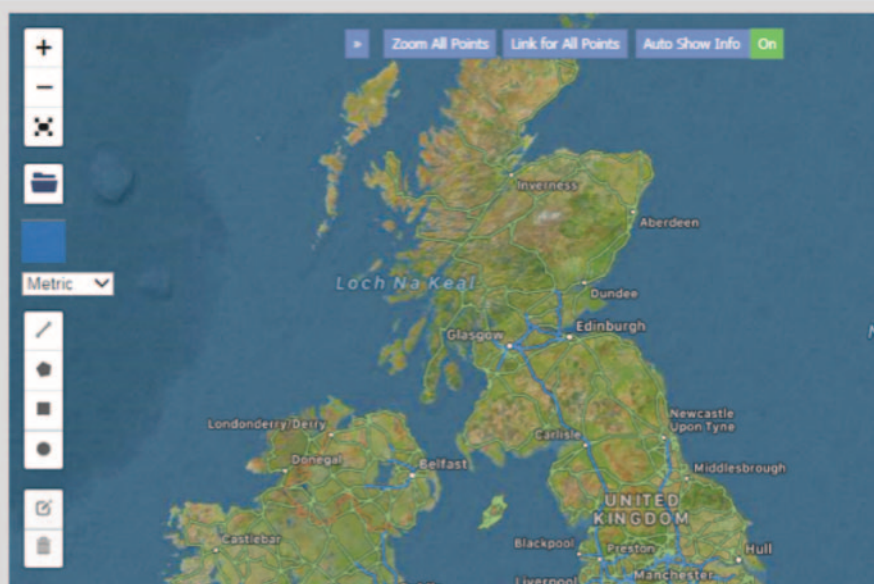
X (Easting) Y (Northing)

 Go

Lat Long

 Go

What3Words

 Go

How To...

Get a grid reference using external sources

1. Go to <http://gridreferencefinder.com>
2. The following page (*see image above*) should load
3. You have two options to search. You can use the mouse and zoom to your location as you would if using google maps, or the easiest way is to enter your postcode, street and town. This will then make the map zoom automatically to your location. It is important you remember to enter your town as without this information the map will zoom to the wrong location.
4. Navigate around the map using the mouse until you locate your property
5. Click on the map above your property and a pin will appear
6. By double clicking the pin, a box will appear showing your grid reference
7. Enter you 12 figure grid reference on the ***'Making an Emergency Call'*** page of this handbook.



Rural Safety and Fire Prevention from Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service



Foreword

Gavin Tomlinson

Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive

More than one million people live in Derbyshire, which covers over 1,000 square miles and encompasses much of the Peak District National Park. Every year, fire is responsible for the destruction of thousands of acres of countryside, open spaces and wildlife habitat with some fires lasting several days.



Fire can cause major disruption for businesses – there is a far greater chance of recovery if risks have been identified and appropriate arrangements have been put in place to prevent fires starting, or to mitigate their impact. Continuing our prevention work is vital to ensure these incidents continue to reduce, making our rural communities safer.

This is only possible by working in collaboration with partners such as Derbyshire Police. We are committed to Make Derbyshire Safer Together in driving down fires and increasing safety in rural areas.

Throughout this booklet you will find information about what you should do if a fire occurred at your property and how we prepare for fires in potentially remote rural areas. You will also find a range of tips on how to reduce the risk of fire and arson on farms and what to do in case of a wildfire.

I hope that you will take the time to familiarise yourself with the information within the booklet. By acting on the advice given, we can further reduce the risk of fire and protect your family and property from disaster.



Help Us Help You

Risk Information

Incidents on farms can be complicated to resolve due to poor water supplies and various industry related hazards.

To increase our awareness of potential risk premises/sites, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service carries out site specific risk inspections, the data from these inspections is recorded and is quickly accessible to firefighters if there is an incident.

TO ARRANGE A VISIT PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION.

Cylinders

Ensure any cylinders are stored in a cage, or similar locked store with appropriate signage.

Cylinders should be easily located in the event of a fire, reducing the risk of explosion.



Flammable Materials

Flammable materials such as hay, straw, rugs, fuels and paints should be kept away from any ignition source, including welding equipment, halogen bulbs/heaters and hot machinery.

Fertilisers

Fertilisers containing more than 28% ammonium nitrate should be kept in a safe place, and fire crews should be notified of their presence if there is a fire as these chemicals pose a significant risk to firefighters.

The Fire Service can take appropriate actions to mitigate any hazards if they are aware of them.

Slurry Hazards

Farm fatality figures released by the Health and Safety Executive in July 2015 underline the serious risks associated with slurry.

Several farmers died as a result of being overcome by gas released from slurry. Drowning has also occurred where people, exposed to the fumes have fallen through openings into the slurry tanks.

The figures also underline the associated danger to members of the public who may have ventured onto farmland, unaware of the dangers.

Think about the job you are going to do and make preparations to complete the whole task safely.

Check that the tractor/tanker is in good condition. If equipment has to be positioned above the tank, make sure the slats can take the weight, particularly if you are using new, heavier machinery.

Think about ensuring all openings are fully covered to prevent a fall into the slurry tank.

Remember, slurry gas is heavier than air, and during mixing will settle in a cloud over the top of the slurry. Bending down into the gas for even a few moments could cause unconsciousness.

Remember the risk is variable and difficult to see. You may not have noticed any problems until now, but the gas is always present during mixing. A combination of conditions can easily result in you and your animals being in serious danger.

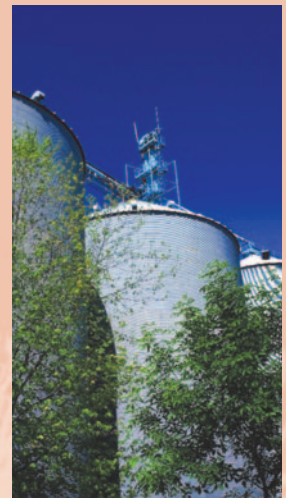
In the event of an emergency, think of how you will alert the emergency services and the information they may need:

- The location of the farm/incident, try and give as much information as possible, including any landmarks and access
- The type of incident i.e. fire, entrapment or spillage
- The number of people involved and their injuries.

Silos

Silos are an important part of many farming operations, however they are also the location of many accidents to farmers and workers.

Confined spaces, falling, electrocutions, hazardous atmospheres, machine related injuries and silo collapse are all potential hazards when working with silos.





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Fire Safety Tips



- Fit smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to stay safe and test them regularly.



- Dispose of cigarettes carefully. Never smoke when refuelling or changing a gas cylinder.



- Plan your escape plan and make sure everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire.



- Never leave cooking unattended. Maintain a clean cooking area – a build up of grease could catch light.



- Please cook responsibly – avoid cooking after consuming alcohol.



PLAN A SAFE ESCAPE



Plan A - Get out, stay out call 999.



Smoke alarm beeps



Check door for heat



Crawl and call



Get out, stay out



Call 999

Plan B - Shut the door, open the window, call 999.



Smoke alarm beeps



Check door for heat



Block gap under the door



Stay by an open window



Call 999

Plan C - Last resort, throw out soft furnishings, hang and drop.



Smoke alarm beeps



If the fire gets too close



Throw out soft furnishings



Hang and drop



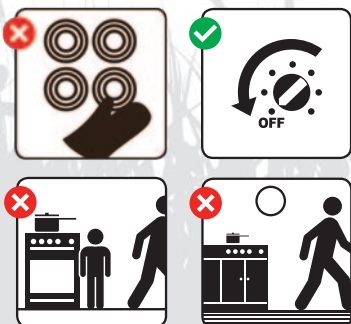
Call 999



©Shutterstock

Cooking Safely

50% of all accidental house fires start in the kitchen



Follow our top tips for preventing a kitchen fire.

- Don't cook after drinking alcohol – it's easy to fall asleep, leaving the cooking to cause a fire
- Take extra care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, take pans off the heat, or turn them down to avoid risk
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out – so they don't get knocked off the stove
- Keep tea towels, cloths and other flammable items away from the hob
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – they can easily catch fire.
- Spark devices are safer than matches/lighters to light gas cookers, because they don't have a naked flame
- Double check your cooker is off when you have finished cooking
- Don't leave children alone in the kitchen
- Keep matches and saucepan handles out of reach of children to keep them safe.

Take care with electrics

- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire
- Don't put anything metal in the microwave.

Cooking with hot oil

- Take care when cooking with hot oil – it sets alight easily
- Don't overfill a chip pan with oil – never fill it more than one-third full
- Make sure food is dry before putting it in hot oil so it doesn't splash
- If the oil starts to smoke it is too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool
- Use a thermostat controlled electric deep fat fryer. They can't overheat.

WHAT TO DO IF A PAN CATCHES FIRE

- Don't take any risks. Turn off the heat if it's safe to do so. Never throw water over it
- Don't tackle the fire yourself. **Get out, stay out and call 999.**

Smoking

Never smoke in bed.

Use a proper ashtray – never a wastepaper basket.

Make sure your ashtray can't tip over and is made of a material that won't burn.

Don't leave a lit cigarette, cigar or pipe lying around. They can easily fall over and start a fire.

Take extra care if you smoke when you're tired, taking prescription drugs, or if you've been drinking. You might fall asleep and set your sofa or bed on fire.

Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.

Consider buying child resistant lighters and match boxes.

Stub cigarettes out properly and dispose of them carefully.

Put them out. Right out!

E-cigarettes

All e-cigarettes use a rechargeable battery to power the vaporiser and these batteries require recharging on a regular basis.

A number of incidents have been reported nationally where the battery has either overheated or exploded during the charging process.

If you use an e-cigarette:

Always follow manufactures instructions/guidance when charging e-cigarette battery packs.



Put them out.
Right out!





Bonfires & Fireworks

If you're planning a bonfire, or celebrating with some fireworks, follow our safety advice to ensure everyone stays safe

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Don't drink alcohol if you're setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed metal box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light fireworks at arm's length, using the taper provided
- Stand well back – keep away from lit fireworks.
- Never return to an unexploded firework as it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Keep pets indoors

- Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm
- Take care around open flames such as bonfires and barbecues. All clothes, even those labelled '*low flammability*', can catch fire
- See the Department of Trade & Industry's website for more information.

Bonfires

- Should be at least 18 metres (60ft) away from houses, trees, hedges, fences or sheds
- Never use petrol, paraffin or other flammable liquids to start your fire
- Use domestic firelighters.

Top tip



Avoid open fires
in the countryside





Electrical Safety

40% of accidental house fires are caused by electrical appliances and electrical supply

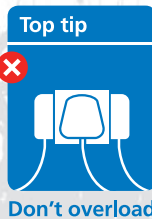
Keep all electrical appliances clean, follow the operating instructions and keep them in good working order.

Only use white goods machines such as washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers when you are at home, and NOT when you are asleep.

Always register your white goods, this can be done when they are brand new or second hand.

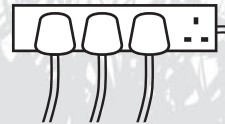
Don't overload extension leads or adapters.

Regularly check for frayed or worn cables and wires.



Know the limit!

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 5 & + & 5 & + & 3 & = & 13 \\ \text{AMP} & & \text{AMP} & & \text{AMP} & & \text{AMP} \end{array}$$



Electric Heaters

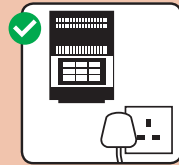
Approximately a third of all fatal electrical fires involved heaters

Portable heaters should not be used to dry clothing/washing.

Do not use heaters that have frayed or damaged cables.

Do not leave heaters on in empty rooms.

Keep portable heaters at least 1 meter away from any furniture or other flammable items, such as curtains.



Candle Safety

Keep candles well away from flammable materials such as curtains, cards, papers etc.

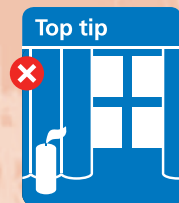
Secure candles in proper holders - where possible use candles in glass jars.

Take extra care when wearing loose clothing around candles as they can easily catch fire.

Don't put candles on the side of the bath, or on the TV.

Make sure candles are kept out of reach of children and any pets.

Do not leave candles burning when you're not in the room



**Be careful
with candles**

Smoke Alarms

Only working smoke alarms can save lives as they give early warning of a fire, giving you extra time to get out, stay out and call 999.

Ensure you have working smoke alarms fitted on each floor of your home.

Test your smoke alarms weekly.

Make sure you have a pre-planned and practiced escape plan in case of a fire in your home. If you have a fire, get out, stay out and call 999





Fire Safety for People with Disabilities/ Mobility Issues

If you are living with a disability or have mobility issues, it could take you longer to get out of your home in the event of a fire. It is essential that you follow our simple advice for staying safe.

Ensure you test your smoke alarm weekly. If you cannot test the alarm, get help. Alternatively use a stick or broom handle to assist you.

Consider fitting an intercom which will allow you to alert someone else in the house in the event of an emergency.

Plan your escape route as escaping from a fire could take more time. Consider this in your care plan.

If you are concerned about your safety, contact the fire and rescue service and firefighters or a community safety officer will visit you and conduct a safe and well check, giving advice and information about staying safe in your home. **Ring 01773 305305**

Hearing Impaired

If you are deaf, a little hard of hearing, or simply a heavy sleeper, you should consider a strobe light and vibrating pad alarm system.

To get a strobe light or vibrating-pad alarm contact your local Social Services team.

If you have a vibrating pad, make sure it is property linked to the fire alarm and plan your escape route.

If you use a pager (which is linked to your fire alarm), remember to keep it charged and with you.

Register for the SMS 999 service, it will link you automatically to the Derbyshire Medical Services. To register text 'register' to 999 and follow the text instructions.

Medication

Some medicines can make you drowsy, so ask your doctor if your medicine will make you sleepy and make any necessary adjustments to your care plan so you stay safe in your home.

Don't attempt to cook or drive after taking medication that makes you feel drowsy.

Don't smoke in bed – you may fall asleep causing your bed to catch fire.

Memory loss

By 2021 one million people will have dementia in the UK

Write a checklist in a prominent place

Make sure that you have a working smoke alarm and test it weekly

Plan your escape route and write it on your checklist

If you have a fire, get out, stay out and call 999

Sight impaired

If you have sight difficulties it is harder to detect fire and escape

Put a coloured sticker on your smoke alarm if you have trouble seeing to test it

Consider placing a tactile indicator along your escape route to make it easier to find the exit.

If electrics are giving off a burning smell turn them off and unplug them immediately

Oxygen Therapy

If you use oxygen therapy at home you may need to take some additional fire safety precautions, this is because oxygen makes a fire burn more strongly.

Don't smoke in the same room as the oxygen cylinder
Your oxygen equipment should be stored safely; out of direct sunlight, and in a place that is well ventilated, always dry and away from heat sources.

Only use oxygen when there are no naked flames, including gas and electric cookers with three metres.

Turn off oxygen equipment when it is not being used.

Alcohol and Drugs

50% of people who die in house fires have had a drink or taken drugs.

Only smoke outside the property.

Hungry? Get a takeaway or make something cold when you have had an alcoholic drink or taken drugs. It's easy to fall asleep with the cooker/hob on.

Don't drink and drive – Remember that you may still be over the drink-drive limit the following morning!

Put out cigarettes carefully before going to bed.



Chimney Fires

Chimney fires happen when soot or creosote deposits build up in the chimney and then catch light due to high temperatures, or flames from a very hot fire.

Tell-tale signs of a chimney fire:

- A loud roaring noise, the result of massive amounts of air being sucked through the burner or fireplace opening
- Sparks and flames seen shooting from the chimney top, which can be similar to fireworks in appearance
- A glowing or shimmering outlet or connector
- A vibrating appliance, outlet or connector
- Flames visible through any tiny cracks in the outlet or connector
- Smoke or smells noticeable in adjoining rooms or the loft space
- The chimney breast or flue pipe heating up in either the same room or other rooms they pass through.

It should be noted that it is possible to experience a chimney fire without any of these characteristics so this should be treated as a guide.

All chimney fires are extremely dangerous - internal flue temperatures can reach 1,100 degrees Celsius. As a result, heat can radiate through the chimney walls and quickly start a house fire.

The bricks of the chimney can become hot enough to combust nearby flammable materials such as thatch and wooden beams. Adjoining houses and nearby trees can also be affected.

Ensure you have working smoke alarms fitted on each floor of your home.

Test your smoke alarms weekly. Only working smoke alarms can save lives as they give early warning of a fire, giving you extra time to get out, stay out and call 999.

Make sure you have a pre-planned and practiced escape plan in case of a fire in your home. If you have a fire, get out, stay out and call 999

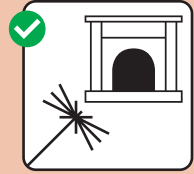
Preventing Chimney Fires

There are four main reasons for chimney fires happening:

1. ***Infrequent sweeping and cleaning***
2. ***Burning unseasoned wet wood***
3. ***Improper appliance sizing***
4. ***Overnight burning or smouldering wood for long periods in wood burners.***

To reduce the risk of a chimney fire, you should:

- Have your chimney swept on a regular basis
- Make sure all wood burnt has a moisture content below 17 per cent, by buying seasoned wood from reputable suppliers
- Choose the correct size appliance for your room. One which is too large will never burn all of the fuel contained in the wood. This unburned fuel will pass up the chimney as smoke and condense as extremely flammable creosote
- If you have a wood burner, always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on fuel loading and air flow.



Anyone that has an appliance with a flue has a responsibility to maintain the appliance and the flue. It is often stated that people should take reasonable care within the terms of household insurance policies and, in the case of thatched properties, the frequency of sweeping is often specified by the insurers.

If you are in a rented property, your landlord has a duty of care towards you as a tenant 'to repair and keep in any working order, any room heater and water heating equipment'.



Electric Blankets

Electric blankets account for over 5000 fires a year in the home and you can prevent these by taking some simple steps.

Watch out for the following signs that your electric blanket is at risk of causing a fire:

Fraying fabric

Scorch marks

Exposed elements

Creasing from folding

Soiling

Damp patches

Tie tapes damaged or missing

Worn flex

Loose connections.

If your blanket or any part of the wiring shows any of these danger signs, you should have it checked or replaced immediately.

An old BEAB safety mark – a round symbol (the new sign is white capital letters on a black background) means your blanket is more than 10 years old and needs replacing.

Buying a new electric blanket

You can't replace your family/loved ones, but you can replace a worn electric blanket before it causes a fire.

If you are in any doubt about the condition of your blanket, bin it and buy a new one.

You should replace your electric blanket at least every 10 years.

Don't buy a second-hand blanket.

Ensure your blanket has the British or European standard and make sure it has a safety certification mark.

Make sure the blanket has an overheat protection.

Store your blanket safely

Storing your blanket in the correct manner will ensure you get the best from it.

Don't fold electric blankets – it can damage the wiring. Better to roll them.

Why not store your blanket by putting it/them on a spare bed.

Electric under blankets can be left on your bed all year if you wish.

Use your electric blanket safely

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Never use an electric under blanket as an electric over-blanket, and vice versa.





Water Safety

During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children are drowning. On average, there are 50 of these tragedies each year in the UK

The water is often far deeper than people think

It's very cold, and can quickly cause cramp and breathing difficulties

It may contain hidden rubbish and debris such as shopping trolleys and broken glass which can cause injuries and drowning.

Sometimes it can be polluted and makes them very ill.



Winter Driving

Whether you are driving on rural or urban roads, you need to take extra care during the winter months.

Take it slow – with stopping distances 10 times longer, gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving in ice and snow.

Consider the weather before your journey – is it necessary?

- Wear comfortable, dry shoes for driving.
- Pull away in second gear, easing your foot off the clutch gently to avoid wheel-spin.
- **UPHILL** – leave plenty of room or wait until it's clear so you don't have to stop part way up. Keep a constant speed and try to avoid having to change gear on the hill.
- **DOWNHILL** – slow down before the hill, use a low gear and try to avoid braking. Leave as much room as you can to the car in front.
- If you have to use your brakes, apply them gently.
- If you drive an Automatic, check the handbook – some have a winter mode or recommend selecting '2' in slippery conditions.
- If you do get stuck, straighten the steering and clear the snow from the wheels. Put a sack or old rug in front of the driving wheels to give the tyres some grip.

Vehicle Checks

- **OIL** – Make sure you check your oil before any long journey
- **WASHER FLUID** - Always make sure you windscreen washer fluid is topped up
- **ENGINE COOLANT** – Always ensure you're engine coolant is at the correct level (anti-freeze) please refer to product guidelines for correct amount.
- **TYRES** – Always make sure your tread depth is above 1.6mm, we recommend a minimum of 3mm
- **LIGHT** – Make sure you check all operating lights before any journey.
- **FUEL** – Make sure you have enough fuel to reach you destination.





NEED MORE?

**OPPORTUNITY
BELONGING
COMMUNITY**

On-Call Firefighters

On-call firefighters are a vital part of the fire and rescue service response team. Trained to the same high standard as full time firefighters, they respond to fires from their home or place of work.

Derbyshire has on-call firefighters at 24 of the counties 31 fire stations, 19 of these crewed by on-call staff only.

Many of the on-call firefighters have primary employments, such as factory workers, builders and vets. When called upon they become a highly skilled and dedicated team saving lives in their own community.

They are called upon to respond to a variety of incidents such as road traffic collisions, animal rescues and flooding, very often these are in rural areas in which they live. They also carry out fire safety work within the community and get opportunities to develop their skills which may also become useful in other parts of their lives.

Do you have what it takes to become an on-call firefighter?

To be an on-call firefighter you need to

- Be a minimum of 18 years old
- Have a good level of strength and fitness
- Live or work within 5 minutes or a mile of your local fire station
- Be able to pass our job related tests
- Be able to attend a weekly training session.

For more information, please visit

www.derbys-fire.gov.uk/careers/become-a-firefighter/on-call-firefighter



Derbyshire Emergency Medical Services



Foreword

Tim Slater

Divisional Director for Derbyshire and Paramedic,
East Midlands Ambulance Service

Rural Derbyshire covers a vast and beautiful area of our county, including the Peak District National Park. The information included in this Rural Community Safety Guide is intended to help people in rural Derbyshire carry out their day-to-day business safely.



However, the large area East Midlands Ambulance Service covers provides its own unique set of challenges when supporting the people who live, work and visit here. We are not always able to be parked round the corner in the event of an emergency.

Our section of the guide provides information that should be helpful if you find yourself in a situation where medical attention is required.

There is also guidance on what to do in these situations including advice on when it is appropriate to call 999, who might come to help you, what to do when waiting for an ambulance to arrive and how you can help our responders when they arrive.

By reading this guide you can familiarise yourself with the procedures that you should hopefully never have to put into action. These actions could be crucial in saving someone's life should you need to make that 999 phone call.

We hope that you will never need our help, but rest assured that if you do, we will be there for you.



Derbyshire Emergency Medical Services

There are times when immediate, professional medical attention is required. You need to call 999 when someone is seriously ill or injured and you think their life is at risk.

When you call 999, a BT operator will answer your call and ask which emergency service you require, Fire, Police or Ambulance.

999 doesn't always mean an ambulance or a trip to hospital, it's about caring for you at the right time in the right place.

If it is not life threatening but you need medical help, consider calling NHS 111. There are also other options that can be considered:

- Take care of yourself at home
- Talk to a pharmacist
- Make an appointment with your GP
- Visit an NHS walk in centre or Urgent Treatment Centre
- Take yourself to the Emergency Department

Call an ambulance for the following conditions:

- Severe allergic reaction
- Breathing problems
- Fitting
- Diabetic emergency
- Chest pain
- Stroke
- Loss of consciousness
- Collapse
- Cardiac arrest
- Respiratory arrest (absence of breathing)
- Disorientation/confusion
- Coughing or vomiting blood or bleeding that cannot be controlled
- Sudden changes to vision or hearing
- Back or neck injuries
- Significant injury or trauma
- Poisoning or smoke inhalation





Medical Emergencies

Managing an unconscious person

If a person is unconscious but is breathing and has no life-threatening conditions, they should be placed in the recovery position.

Putting someone in the recovery position will ensure their airway remains clear and open. It also ensures that any vomit or fluid will not cause them to choke.

To place someone in the recovery position:

- Kneel on the floor on one side of the person.
- Place the arm nearest you at a right angle to their body with their hand upwards towards the head.
- Tuck their other hand under the side of their head, so that the back of their hand is touching their cheek.
- Bend the knee furthest from you so that it is at a right angle with their foot flat on the floor.
- Carefully roll the person towards you onto their side by pulling on the bent knee.



- The hand of the top arm should be supporting the head under their cheek and the bottom arm will stop you rolling them too far.
- Open their airway by gently tilting their head back and lifting their chin, and check that nothing is blocking their airway.
- Stay with the person and monitor their breathing continuously until help arrives.

How to Deliver CPR

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

DRsABC

- D – DANGER** – Make sure you are safe to help, keep calm and stay in control.
- R – RESPONSE** – Shake the shoulders gently and speak clearly saying ‘can you hear me?’, ‘are you alright?’, ‘can you open your eyes?’
- S – SHOUT** – Shout for help and phone 999. If someone else calls 999, make sure they tell you they have done it and that the ambulance is on its way.
- A – AIRWAY** – Tilt their head and lift their chin. This is important to open the airway.
- B – BREATHING** – Look, listen and feel for up to 10 seconds (3 breaths in 10 seconds is normal breathing). Look for the chest rising and falling and listen for any breath, or feel the breath on your cheek. Agonal breathing (fewer than 3 breaths in 10 seconds) is common in the first few minutes of a cardiac arrest.

C – CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

(CPR) – If the patient is not breathing normally, start CPR by pressing hard and fast in the centre of the chest. You will need to do 100-120 compressions per minute. If you can access a defibrillator, use it. Early effective CPR significantly improves the chances of survival for someone whose heart has stopped beating. This condition is known as a cardiac arrest. Do 30 CPR compressions followed by two rescue breaths and keep going until help arrives.

Rescue Breaths

Tip the head back as previously described, this time pinch the nose, place your mouth around the patients mouth and form a seal. Blow a short burst of air into the patient’s chest, just enough to see the chest rise, this is one rescue breath. Do this one more. Then go straight back to continuing your CPR.

Give two, full mouth-to-mouth rescue breaths while watching for chest rise and fall.

If possible use a face shield or pocket mask.

When to Stop CPR

- If the victim starts obviously showing signs of life.
- If the scene becomes unsafe and you are physically unable to continue
- When you are told to stop by a trained medical professional.



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Your Emergency Action Plan

Medical emergencies often happen quickly and without warning, so being well prepared can save valuable time and may help to SAVE A LIFE.

First Aid Kits

Have a well-stocked first aid kit at home and in the car, and keep it in an obvious place. Have an up to date record with relevant information that may be used in a medical emergency.

This Section may well be covered by the “*message in a bottle*” but could also include:

- Name and dates of birth of residents.
- Full address and telephone/mobile numbers.
- In case of emergency contact details/next of kin.
- GP details.

Assisting the Ambulance Service

There are a number of things you can do to assist the ambulance service:

- If you are in the street, stay with the patient until help arrives.
- Call back the ambulance service if the patient's condition deteriorates.
- Call back the ambulance service if the location changes or the patient makes their own way to hospital.
- If you are calling from home or work, ask someone to open the doors, and put the external lights on if it is dark to signal where the ambulance crew are required.
- Lock away any pets.
- Write down the patient's GP details and get together any medication they are taking.
- Inform the paramedics about any allergies the patient has.
- Remain calm at all times.
- Details of how to find you – landmarks, points of interest, access and egress issues such as weight/width/height restrictions, environmental factors such as fords etc. If you are hard to find please make yourself visible to the emergency services vehicle as they approach or use the What3Words app when calling for help.
- Hazards, with farms/industry in mind e.g. gas, cylinders, chemicals etc.
- Details of any medical conditions.
- Documentation of any community care plan in place, and any DNAR form (including advanced directions).
- Details of any other special needs.
- List of described medication.
- List of any known allergies.

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