



**Hampshire
& Isle of Wight**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT THATCH LEAFLET



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DON'T LET IT CATCH - PROTECT YOUR THATCH

Thatch fires can result from embers, chimney faults, electrical issues, or external sources like fireworks – and because thatch repels water, these fires are hard to extinguish and spread fast, making prevention essential.



CHIMNEY MAINTENANCE

- Sweep your chimney at least twice a year to remove soot, bird nests, cobwebs and other blockages and deposits
- Use a professional registered chimney sweep
- Have the brickwork inspected by a registered engineer every three years

BE PREPARED

- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home
- Ensure you have a carbon monoxide alarm in every room where there is a fuel burning appliance
- Test your smoke alarms once a week
- Keep all exits clear
- Have a Plan B – if your main exit is blocked, know your next option
- Keep door and window keys accessible
- Download what3words app to help give clear location details to emergency services
- Check with your insurance provider the level of cover you have and carry out any required safety measures

HEATING YOUR HOME – OPEN FIRES AND WOOD BURNERS

- Fires should be lit using firelighters and kindling only. Paper or card can be lifted out of the chimney which could land on the thatch
- If you're using a wood-burning stove, ensure that it's installed and checked by an approved installer. Use the correct amount of wood, avoid loading too much at once, and properly manage air vents to control the oxygen supply to avoid over-firing
- Only burn seasoned wood
- Use fireguards with open fires

IF A FIRE OCCURS - GET OUT, STAY OUT, CALL 999

For further Fire Safety
information scan the QR code

or visit
[www.hantsfire.gov.uk/
thatched-living](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/thatched-living)

