

Checklist for Agricultural Buildings



Farms are particularly vulnerable to arson; their isolated location, open boundaries and readily ignitable hay and straw make them an easy target. Although this checklist is not definitive, it should be used in conjunction with the accompanying guide to steer you through the risk assessment process.

Safety Precautions

Y/N

Keep stacks in reasonable sizes and spaced at least 10 metres apart to prevent flames spreading between stacks	
Site barns sufficiently far away from other buildings to prevent flames from spreading between buildings	
Compartmentalise large storage areas of combustible material by installing fire retardant partitions	
Store fuel and agrochemicals separately from hay, straw and livestock in a secure metal container	
Regularly inspect unoccupied buildings such as outbuildings and remove any non essential combustible material	
Store rubbish in secure metal containers and arrange for its regular removal, do not allow it to accumulate in the open	
Keep any undergrowth near to buildings under control, using a non flammable weedkiller if necessary	
Monitor camping and picnicking areas for litter and prohibit the lighting of open fires and barbeques for cooking	

Security Precautions

Y/N

Secure or immobilise vehicles or equipment when not in use, if possible, remove machinery from fields, especially near roads	
Fit deadlocks to external doors, reinforced with strong bolts preferably key operated and minimize any gaps	
Repair damage to perimeter fencing and gates and ensure that thorny bushes form an effective barrier	
Fit window locks or metal bars on ground floor windows and those near flat roofs and drain pipes	
Encourage good relations with surrounding neighbours and promptly repair damage and remove graffiti	
Lock all buildings when not in use and ensure that the premises are secured at the end of the working day	
Install security lighting and if necessary CCTV in areas which are hidden from view and cut back vegetation close to recesses which could provide cover for an arsonist	
Restrict and monitor access onto the premises and encourage employees to report suspicious behaviour by strangers or other employees	
Install clear signage at entry points onto the premises instructing visitors where and where not to go	
Practice fire drills and ensure that in the event of a fire, at least one employee is responsible for directing emergency vehicles to the fire from the main road	
Join Countryside Watch and encourage neighbours to be vigilant of and report suspicious behaviour	