



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency

Fire-safe camping

Tips and advice for campers



Reduce the risk of fire

Caravans and tents burn quickly – such fires are often over in a few minutes. As a camper you must help to reduce the risk of fire and of fires spreading. But if a fire does occur you have to be ready to take action yourself. When the fire brigade arrives it is often too late. A smoke detector and an LPG alarm provide early warnings. With a handheld fire extinguisher and a fire blanket you have the means to take action at an early stage, regardless of whether the fire is at your encampment or a neighbour's.

If tents and vehicles are positioned too close to each other there is a greater risk of fire spreading to neighbours. It is therefore vital to maintain the recommended distances. Position your caravan with the tow bar facing the road so that it can be moved quickly in the event of a fire at your neighbour's.

Handle LPG correctly

If you use LPG for heating or cooking you have to be well aware of how to use it in a safe way.

It is important to have good ventilation close to LPG appliances. LPG is not a poisonous gas but it is very flammable and explosive. Leaking LPG can cause suffocation because it removes oxygen. Check that all hoses and couplings to LPG appliances are without fault and properly tightened so as to prevent leaks.

LPG bottles must never be placed on their sides because then the safety valve ceases to work.

Position LPG appliances at a sufficient distance from flammable material. If there are no instructions on the appliance the distance should be at least 60 cm.

LPG appliances in caravans ought to be pressure tested once a year.

Safe grilling

Never grill under awnings or in tents. Glowing charcoal and other wood-fuel give off poisonous carbon monoxide.

The grill should be placed on a flat non-flammable surface at least one metre from tents and caravans.

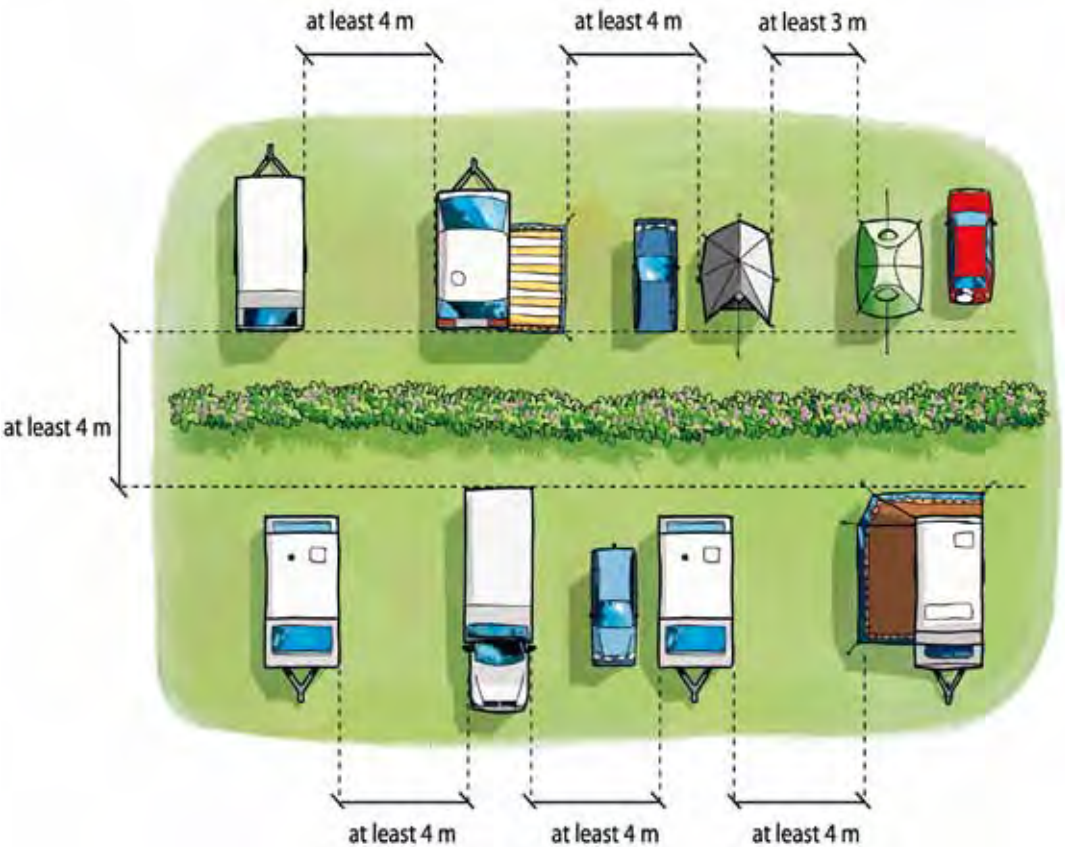
Keep fire-lighting fluids at least 3 metres away from the grill.

Never leave a grill unattended.

Put used charcoal in the intended and marked waste place. Used fuel from a charcoal grill can maintain its heat and glow for up to 3 days.

Recommended distances

The distance between two camping units or between a camping unit and a tent should be at least four metres. The distance between two tents should be at least three metres.



Recommended distances.

The term camping unit refers to: caravans, camper vans, and motor caravans and includes awnings and similar.

It is your responsibility as a camper to ensure that the recommended distances to your neighbours are maintained.

Check your electrical appliances

As a camper you must ensure that your electrical appliances are safe. For example, it is important that all the appliances you use are CE marked and that all cables are intact.

A cheap form of life insurance is to let a qualified electrician carry out an inspection of the electrics and electrical appliances in your caravan. Because they are subject to heavy vibration during transport, it is important to conduct your own regular checks.

If the power outlet at the camping site was installed after 1992 then it should be protected by a circuit breaker. Make sure that this is in fact the case. But just in case it isn't, always carry a circuit breaker with you.

The connection cables between the power outlet and the caravan ought not to be longer than 25 metres. Avoid cable winders, but if they are used, roll out all the cable. In rolled up cables the heat can rise to the level that it melts the insulation, in the worst case resulting in the car and caravan carrying a live electrical charge.



Examples of camping units.

If a fire starts

- Follow the principle:

Rescue • Warn • Alert • Extinguish

Rescue people in danger. Warn people in the immediate area. Alert the fire brigade. Try to extinguish the fire if you have a fire extinguisher or a hose, but don't take unnecessary risks.

- If emergency assistance is required – call 112.
- If a fire starts at your neighbour's – move, if possible, all camping units and tents that are in danger.
- Meet the fire brigade when they arrive and direct them to the fire.



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SE-651 81 Karlstad Tel +46 (0)771-240 240 www.msb.se
Order number MSB 0042-09