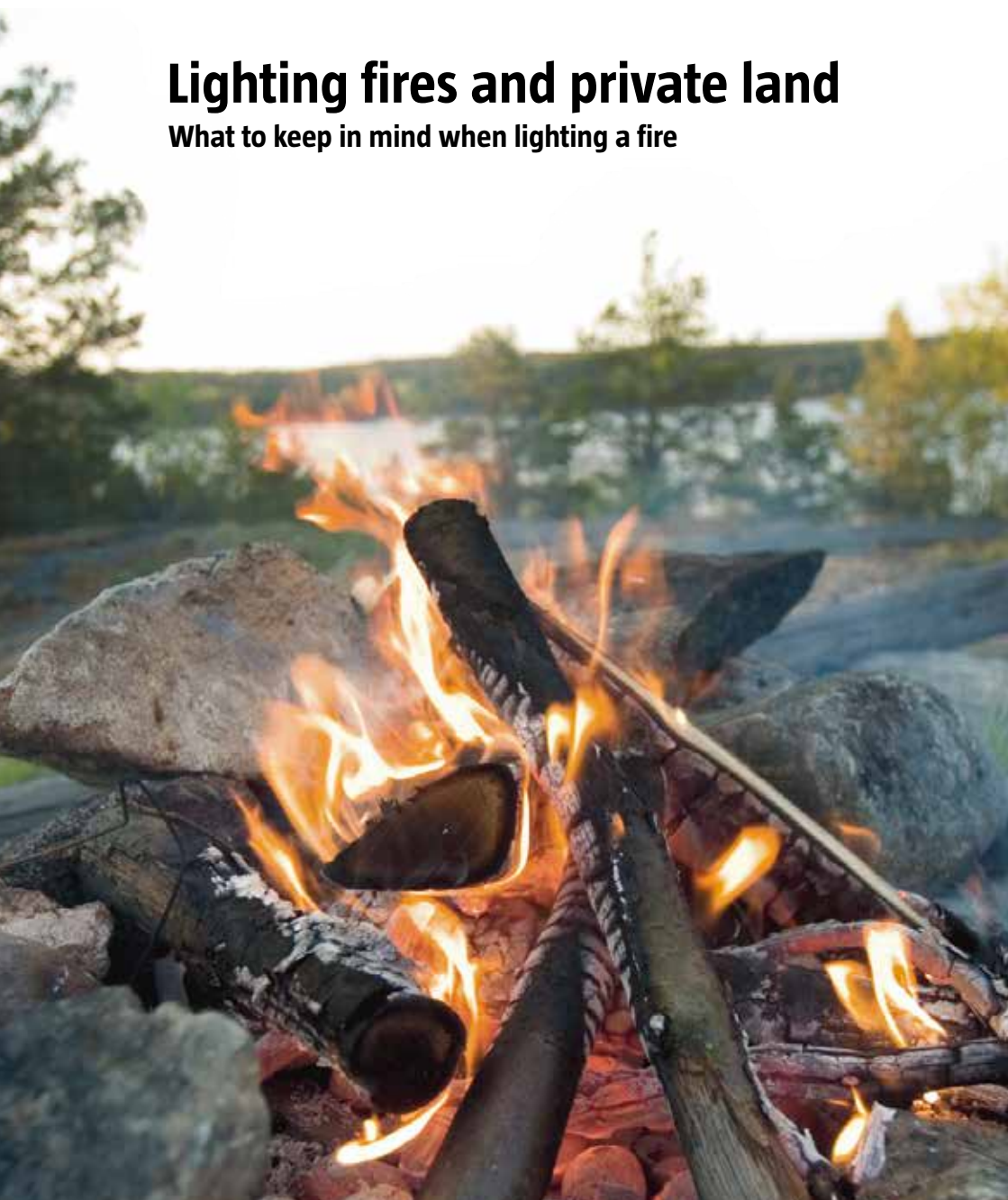




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# Lighting fires and private land

What to keep in mind when lighting a fire



Throughout history, fire has always fascinated humanity. A crackling campfire adds extra spice to outdoor life. But it can also spread great devastation if it is handled incorrectly. The Swedish right of public access to private land does not give you any natural right to light a fire, only the opportunity to light fires under safe circumstances.

## **Lighting fires is sometimes prohibited**

At a number of locations, such as protected natural areas, lighting fires may be prohibited. See local instructions for any prohibitions. Prohibitions on lighting fires are sometimes issued owing to the fact that the risk of fire is great. Information on the risk of fires and prohibition on lighting fires is provided through the local press and in connection with news broadcasts on local radio. In general, you can also get information on municipal or county administrative board Web sites, from campsites, tourist offices, or the municipality's rescue services. Several of these also have answering machines that will inform you about the risk of fire. In the event of a prohibition on lighting fires, all open fires are prohibited, even in fire pits that have been put in order. Local exceptions will be announced by the municipality.

## **If you light a fire**

- Use of a camping stove is preferable. If you light a fire, it is important to choose the right location, for example on gravel or sandy soil. Do not light a fire on sod, on moss, or on earthy woodland. In places like that, the fire can smoulder down in the soil for a long period, only to blaze up later. Also, avoid lighting a fire near ant-hills or field stubble; they are hard to put out if they catch fire. Do not light fires directly on or up against flat rocks. They can become discoloured and split apart.
- Mark off the seat of the fire by digging up gravel or placing stones around the seat, and keep the fire small.
- Make sure there is water to extinguish the fire with.
- Be on guard for wind that can carry sparks into the forest and into dry grass. Do not light a fire if it is too windy.
- Use only suitable fuel, for example dead branches, twigs, and pine cones lying loose on the ground. You may not use living trees.
- Do not burn garbage – the fire pit is no place for waste incineration.
- If you use a single-use grill, it is important that you place it correctly. Single-use grills become very hot on the underside and can cause fires on benches and tables made of wood or in ground vegetation. Therefore, always place the grill on non-combustible bedding such as gravel or sand. Be careful to extinguish the grill and remember not to leave it there in nature. Always recycle single-use grills.

## How to extinguish a fire

Let the fire burn out completely. Extinguish it thoroughly with water and stir it around so that the embers die out. Embers can sink into the ground, so dig under the ashes and see to it that all embers under the fire pit are extinguished; check that no smoke is visible. A small shovel and a pail for water are good to have.

## If the fire spreads

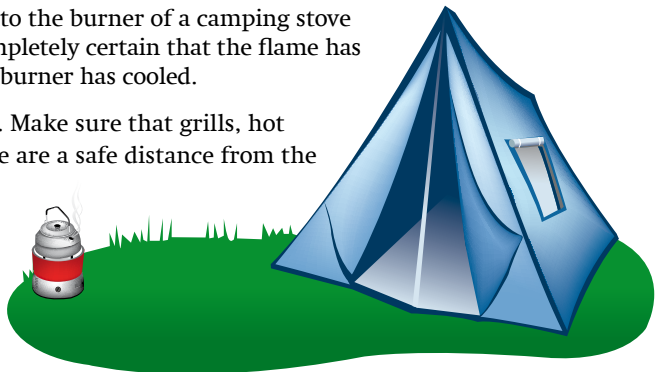
Ring rescue services for help via emergency number 112. Describe what has happened, and where. Try to stop the fire in the direction of the wind. Use branches of small spruce or juniper that are trimmed off approximately 1 meter at the top. These are better than branches with leaves on them. It is best if the branches can be wet down. Do not beat the fire; sparks will fly around and the fire will blaze up. Sweep burning material towards the fire and press the branch into the ground so that the fire is smothered. Throw aside brushwood and twigs, and remove moss and other combustible material in front of the fire.

## If your clothes catch fire

- If your own clothes catch fire, throw yourself quickly onto the ground and roll.
- If someone else's clothing catches fire, lay the person down on the ground. Smother the fire with a blanket or jacket, for example, that you place from the head down so that the flames are prevented from reaching their face. Keep in mind that certain synthetic materials can blaze up or melt and made the injury worse. Cool burns immediately with cold water.
- Do not remove clothing that has stuck to the skin. Continue cooling down burn injuries until the pain stops, approximately 10 minutes. Find a doctor.

## Be careful when camping

- Never have an open fire or glowing coals in a tent or tent vestibule. Fires often emit toxic gases.
- Never pour fuel into the burner of a camping stove before you are completely certain that the flame has burnt out and the burner has cooled.
- Tents ignite easily. Make sure that grills, hot plates, and the like are a safe distance from the tent fabric.

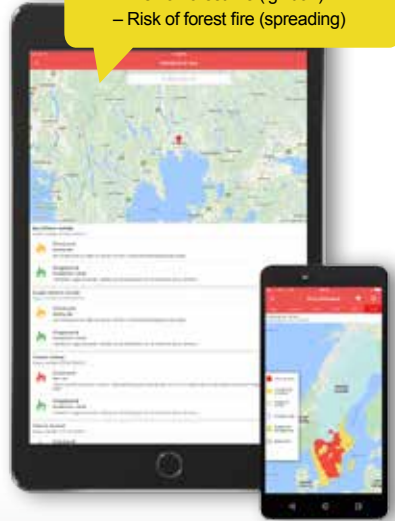


# Keep a check on seasonal risk of fire!

**BRANDRISK Ute** is a mobile app, in Swedish, that can help you check on the risk of fire in forests and fields. The information will help you reduce the risk of starting grass and forest fires. It will also teach you more about safely lighting fires outdoors. The app is available for iPhone, iPad, and Android. You can find it in the App Store or Google Play.

Read more (swedish text) about risk of fires and how you can protect yourself against fire on the MSB Web site. There are also 6-day prognosis maps for risk of grass and forest fire.

- + Current risk of fire and prognosis via GPS and search function
- + Films
- + Checklists
- + Zoomable maps of Sweden:
  - Risk of grass fire
  - Risk of forest fire (ignition)
  - Risk of forest fire (spreading)



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