



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Bonfires and Smoke nuisance Central Bedfordshire Council

Bonfires can be seen as an easy way of getting rid of garden rubbish, but are not environmentally friendly.

Whilst Central Bedfordshire Council has no specific by-laws that prohibit the burning of bonfires it is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) to cause a statutory nuisance. To be considered a statutory nuisance a bonfire would usually have to be a regular problem and interfering substantially with the wellbeing, comfort or enjoyment of your property. However, 'one off' fires that are very large, produce excessive amounts of smoke, and are left to burn for long periods of time may also be considered a statutory nuisance, if they cause a significant adverse impact to neighbouring properties.

If you think a domestic bonfire is causing a nuisance please complete a Central Bedfordshire Council online complaint form (see link below).

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/officeforms/nuisance_complaint.ofml

Alternatively, contact the Central Bedfordshire Council Anti-Social Behaviour and Statutory Nuisance Team by calling them on 0300 300 8302 or emailing them at asb&statnuisanceteam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

If the bonfire issues are caused by a business or they are on a commercial property, please contact the Central Bedfordshire Council Public Protection team by emailing them at pollution@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or by calling them on 0300 300 8302.

If you are going to make a complaint it would be useful to take photographs or video the impact that the smoke etc. is having on the wellbeing, comfort or enjoyment of your property as supporting evidence.

The Fire Service can only extinguish bonfires on private property without the land owner's permission if there is a risk of the fire spreading to other properties. If the bonfire is supervised by the land owner and is under control the Fire Service does not have the legal power to extinguish it even if it is causing a statutory nuisance.

Andy Martin
Community Safety Officer
Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Tel: 01582 875227
Email: andy.martin@bedsfire.com