

# **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE**

## **About 'The Colin - firestarter website'**

This website has been developed by Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Wyre Forest District Council. The aim is to ultimately prevent deliberate fires by educating young people about the consequences of starting fires and the consequences of hoax calls. It also hoped that it will help young people to value the district's heathland nature reserves.

## **Using this resource**

These materials are to support the use of the website. They can be used in part or in their entirety. They can be used before, during or after using the website. It is hoped that they will encourage discussion about the content of the website such as the consequences observed and provide useful information and facts not known to young people and/or may help challenge existing ideas.

## **Accessing the site**

To access the website a password must be entered. After accepting that the educational resource has been read and understood, type 'colin' on the password screen.

## **Information Sections**

The information sections begin on page 3 and cover the following topics:

1. Arson
2. Hoax Calls
3. How to Report a Fire or Other Emergency
4. About Heathland Nature Reserves

## **Further Information**

There are links to other websites on the front page of the site. They are:

### **Fun things to do**

Click on this to go to [www.pluginandplay.org.uk](http://www.pluginandplay.org.uk). Plug&Play is an interactive what's on guide for young people in Worcestershire. It aims to promote and publicise positive events and activities for young people and enables them to get involved.

### **Wyre Forest District Council**

Click on the logo to go to the Council's website [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk). You can find out more about the Ranger Service, who manage the heathland nature reserves, and activities provided for young people throughout the district. You can also find out more about community safety and the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership.

### **Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership**

Click on the logo to go to the Community Safety Partnership's website [www.wfcsp.org.uk](http://www.wfcsp.org.uk). You can find out more about the Partnership, its priorities and initiatives and helpful advice on how to reduce crime and disorder.

### **Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service**

Click on the logo to go the Fire and Rescue Service's website [www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk). You can find out more about preventing fires and other emergencies and how they educate young people on how to keep themselves, their friends and families safe.

### **Crimestoppers**

Click on the logo to go to the Crimestoppers website [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). Crimestoppers is an independent charity working to fight crime. You can call 0800 555 111 to pass on information about crime anonymously, or fill out an on-line form.

## Information Sections

### 1. Arson

#### *What is Arson?*

Arson is when someone sets fire to something or someone on purpose.

#### *What are the Penalties?*

Arson is a serious offence and is always dealt with by the Police and the Courts. You can be sent to Prison from the age of 10 for it.

Maximum penalty for committing arson is **life in prison**.

#### *Local Facts*

2 out of 3 of the fires, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service are called out to, are arson.

Last year, fire-fighters went to 1,400 arsons.

Every week, in England and Wales, 20 schools are attacked by arsonists.

Starting a fire on the heathland nature reserves kills some of our country's rarest wildlife. This could easily lead to some species becoming locally or even permanently extinct.

### 2. Hoax Calls

#### *What are they?*

Made up, pretend, prank, fake, false.

When someone makes a phone call but there is no fire.

#### *What happens to hoax callers?*

Mobiles - they are blocked. The service provider is asked who the phone is registered to and the call is reported to the Police.

Phone boxes - the Police will be sent straight to the phone box. Police can track down callers using photos taken on security cameras and by talking to witnesses.

Calls from a land line - the address appears on screen. The Police go to the address.

Remember also, if there was a real emergency, a fire engine can only be in one place at a time.

#### *How much does it cost every time a fire engine responds to a 999 call?*

Over £1,000

***What are the penalties?***

You can get a £5,000 fine, 6 months in prison or both.

**3. How to Report a Fire or Other Emergency**

- The first person you will talk to is the operator who will ask you which service you require - Fire, Ambulance, Police.
- The operator will then put you through to Fire Control.
- Remember, if you can, give the ADDRESS and POST CODE of where you are to Fire Control. If you don't know these details, it's very important that you have a look at what's around you. This will help the fire-fighters find the fire as quickly as possible. This could be a building or even an unusual tree.

**5. About Heathland Nature Reserves**

***What are they?***

The sandy soils around Kidderminster support one of the world's most threatened wildlife resources, Lowland Heathland. For this reason this habitat type has been described by the UK government as 'the European equivalent of tropical rain forest'.

***What do they look like?***



***What are they called?***

The heathland nature reserves that surround Kidderminster are called Burlish Top, Vicarage Farm Heath, the Rifle Range, Habberley Valley and the Devils Spittleful.

***Why are they important?***

They are nationally important for the wildlife they support. This includes some of Europe's most specialized and rare birds, reptiles and spectacular and nationally rare invertebrates. Some of the plant communities are also exceptionally rare and only occurring in 1 or 2

other locations in the country.

***What can you do there?***

These magnificent areas of lowland heaths allow people from Kidderminster and throughout the district vast opportunities to enjoy:

- Walking and wildlife watching on the way marked trails and network of easy access paths
- Cycling on the national route 45 cycle path
- Horse riding on the permitted trails

***Looking after them***

The heathland nature reserves are, with the exception of the Devils Spittleful, which the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust manages, looked after by Wyre Forest District Council. The Council's Rangers can frequently be seen carrying out vital work to manage these heaths. Often with the help and assistance of local school groups and through the grazing of rare breed cows like Belted Galloway's and Shetland Cattle.

***Want to help or find out more?***

If you want to help or find out more contact the Ranger Service at Wyre Forest District Council on 01562 732928.