

Remember hedgehogs this bonfire night

HEDGEHOG STREET 

CITY OF WILDLIFE

Are you planning a bonfire event this Guy Fawkes Night?

The 5th November can be a dangerous time for hedgehogs as before they are lit, bonfires are ideal nesting sites. Hedgehogs may move into what looks to them like a nice log pile thinking it's a safe and suitable hibernation site.

You can avoid accidents and ensure hedgehog safety by:

- ▶ building the bonfire at the last minute to prevent any hedgehogs from moving in. Ideally it should be built on the day of lighting.
- ▶ moving the entire bonfire a few metres just before lighting.
- ▶ putting up a fence or barrier around the bonfire beforehand using chicken wire or a pile of old tyres.
- ▶ checking the bonfire thoroughly for hidden hedgehogs before lighting, even if the other steps have been followed – just to be on the safe side.
- ▶ using the hashtag #RememberHedgehogs to spread the message on social media.



Hedgehogs can be tricky to spot in their nests, so make sure to check bonfires thoroughly before lighting!

- ▶ contacting local event organisers to pass on the above tips and ensure they consider hedgehogs in their plans. This might be the local council, school or sports club.
- ▶ bearing in mind that amphibians, reptiles and even pets also like to hide in structures like bonfires, so keep an eye out for them too.



What if I find a hedgehog?

Have a high-sided box ready to put any hedgehogs in that are found.

You can also put an old towel, meaty cat or dog food, and some water in the box.

It can then be stored in a safe place like a shed or garage until the fire is dampened down and the hedgehog can be safely released later that night.

If you find an injured hedgehog, call BHPS for advice on 01584 890801.

To learn more about hedgehogs and how you can help them, visit hedgehogstreet.org.

Hedgehog Street is a partnership project between People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

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