



Service Delivery (Protection)

Technical Bulletin No 030

Subject	Featherdown Farm Days & Country House Hideouts
Date	26/04/2010
Originator	Procedures Manager
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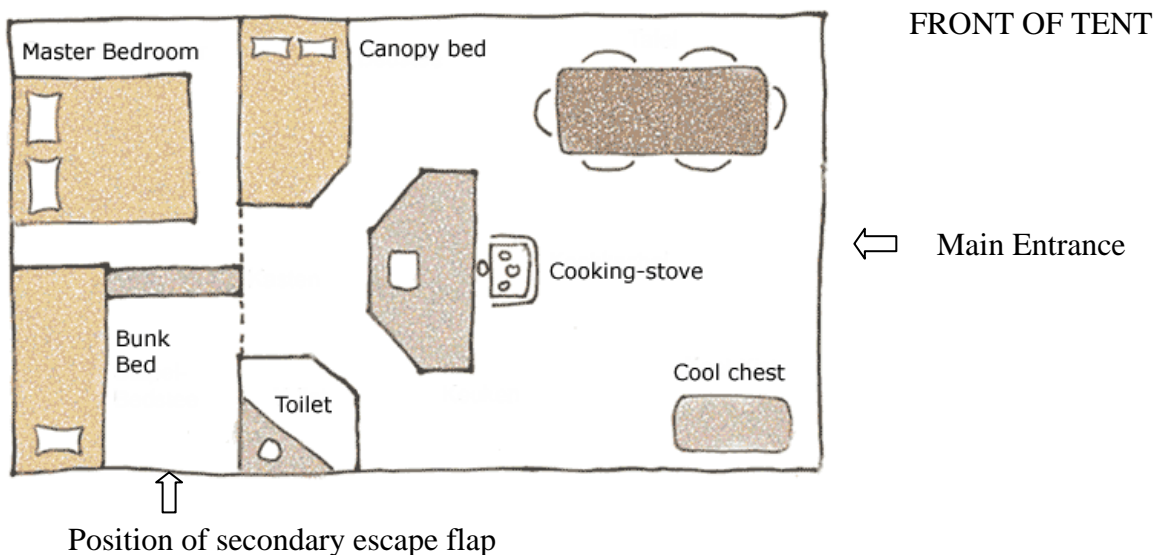
Featherdown Farm Days (FDF) and Country House Hideouts (CHH) are organisations that provide camping facilities aimed at people with a wish to enjoy a more simple and basic outdoor holiday. They are located either on working farms or in the grounds of a country houses.

The accommodation is a large marquee style tent with a double bedroom, a pair of bunk beds and a canopy bed for either 2 children or one adult. The floor is a wooden platform. The walls, roof and internal linings are canvas or other fabric with some of the internal dividing structures, shelving and furniture made from wood. The main living area has a solid fuel cooking stove, a kitchen unit, dining table and cool chest. Heating is provided by the stove and there is no electricity on site. On average, there are 6 tents per site.

The following information has been provided by Devon and Somerset FRS, following consultation with FDF, and can be used for guidance for fire safety audits carried out at these or other similar sites. It is anticipated that further guidance will be produced by CFOA in due course.

At present, there is only one farm operating in Wiltshire, that being Belle Vue farm, Poulshot, Devizes however there is potential for this to change at any time as the operation expands.

Tent Layouts



For Farm Locations around the country visit

<http://www.featherdownfarm.co.uk/>

Agreed Fire Safety Arrangements

- A secondary escape 'flap' will be available from the bunk bed area. The flaps are secured by zips with appropriate high-vis toggle attached to zip for ease of use. Cable supports may be a trip hazard but can be covered with high-vis tape
- Stand alone smoke detectors to be fitted horizontally in the living room area and bedroom area. Not in a position too close to the wood burner, so to reduce false alarms. A testing regime by farmers to test before each occupant. Sticks for testing should be available.
- Two torches provided per tent. Farmers will distribute these to each occupier. A checking regime should be in place.
- A logbook (non standard format) to be available
- An emergency plan SPECIFIC to the individual farm should be available
- Fire action notices available in the tents with details completed
- A Fire Risk Assessment SPECIFIC to the Farm should be provided. This may be an NFU generic template FRA but any anomalies' to that farm should be recorded
- Emergency procedures for disabled guests should the need arise (some farms will not be suitable for some disabilities)
- Dry powder fire extinguisher and blanket in living area (this may be of a Dutch/French standard). These are subject to regular testing
- All tent linings (internal and external) have been supplied with certification to show the Fire Retardency. However the certificates are in French and relate to French Fireproof Class M1 and M2. A flame tests were carried out at a Featherdown Farm site in Alton by our Fire & Rescue colleagues in Hants and they all tested satisfactorily, confirming the certification supplied by FDFD
- All bedding will conform to Furniture and Furnishing Regs and supplied by FDFD
- There will be means of raising a fire warning on site
- Tents will not be in close proximity to trees/hedges
- Due to there being no electricity supply to the sites, each tent is provided with some form of lighting involving naked flames. This has been the hardest issue in reducing the risk of Fire. Oil lamps may be used in the living areas. The lamps will be filled by the farmers before each arrival. No oil will be stored in the tents. Oil will be stored safely on the farm site. T lights will be used for the bedroom areas. Holders to be non combustible with substantial glass and a carrying handle. The candelabras are only designed to stay above the table and workplace, not moved around the tent. Guests are

to be made aware of the importance of extinguishing any naked flames prior to retiring

The company also operate a similar venture called COUNTRY HOUSE HIDEOUTS, currently based in **Essex, Lancashire** and **The Scottish Borders**. The tents are similar in layout except from a veranda at the front of the tent. The actual pitch size is bigger due to there being more facilities on offer.

The RP of CHH is aware of all of the above so we should expect to see similar standards of Fire safety Management.

www.countryhousehideout.co.uk

The responsible person for FDFD is Mr Barny Richardson 07775837902

The Responsible person for CHH is Mr Mark Gordon 07949243990

They are happy to take part in any future Fire Safety audits on their sites

End.