

## **Reducing risk of fire in thatched buildings: recent research and new guidance**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 9:30 – 16:30**

**Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters  
The Knowle, Clyst St George, Exeter, Devon, EX3 0NW**

Since the 1990s, the number of fires in thatch-roofed buildings has risen significantly. Evidence strongly suggests that this is related to the increasing popularity and use of wood-burning and multi-fuel stoves. In fact, recent studies have shown that these types of stove are more likely to cause fires in thatch roofs than any other form of heating, including traditional open fires. But how and why this occurs has long been a subject of contention.

Historic England collaborated with NFU Mutual Insurance Ltd to fund a three-year programme of research carried out by the Fire Protection Association to investigate the causes of fires in thatched buildings fitted with a wood-burning stove. The results have challenged previous theories and have resulted in new guidance to reduce the risk of fire in thatched properties.

This one day event, organised by Historic England, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation South West Branch, and Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, will explain the background to the research, present the results and new guidance, and consider the implications for listed buildings. The issues that arise in the aftermath of a fire will also be discussed and there will be a demonstration of fire-fighting techniques for thatched roofs.

The day is aimed primarily at conservation officers and other building conservation professionals, thatchers, thatched-property owners, fire-fighters and installers of wood-burning stoves.

The day is free to attend, but places are limited so registration is required. If you are interested in attending, please contact Nigel Pratt at [npratt@dartmoor.gov.uk](mailto:npratt@dartmoor.gov.uk) for more details