The Bivvy Safety Code

Heaters, stoves and carbon monoxide: 10 rules for every night on the bank.

1 Never sleep with heat on

Turn off any heater or stove before you get into your sleeping bag, every time.

2 No charcoal, BBQs or Cobbs inside

Not in your bivvy, van or cabin, even when it looks out. Smouldering charcoal keeps giving off carbon monoxide.

3 Cook outside

Use your stove in the open, or under the porch with the door fully open. Never in a zipped bivvy.

4 Only use heaters made for tents

Choose one with automatic safety cut-offs and follow the instructions. Never use patio, workshop or garage heaters.

5 Ventilate when anything burns

Open the door and vents. A warm, sealed bivvy is not worth the risk.

6 Take a CO alarm

A battery alarm made for caravans, boats and camping (BS EN 50291-2), hung near your head when you sleep.

7 Know the signs

Headache, dizziness, feeling sick, drowsiness or confusion: turn the heat off and get into fresh air now.

8 Keep gas outside

Store cylinders upright, cool and out of the bivvy. Check connections and never change a cylinder inside.

9 Stay warm without a flame

Winter sleeping bag, overwrap, hot water bottle and dry layers do more than a heater, safely.

10 Look out for each other

Tell someone your plans, check on your mates in the morning and know the emergency number.

Emergency in France: call 112 (English spoken). In the UK: 999.