



PRESS RELEASE

Enjoy a Clean and Safe Trip to Fingal's Beaches

Visitors to Fingal's 15 beaches this summer are urged to pay close attention to Water Safety notices, and to make sure that they do not litter or leave rubbish on the beaches.

In 2010, lifeguards will be on duty on the main public beaches at weekends only for June and July, and every day in August. Duty hours are 11am to 7pm, and swimmers and beach users should only swim where and when it is safe to do so, paying attention to flags and warning signs. Parents and guardians should make sure that children are supervised and safe at all times on the beach.

During the summer season, Fingal County Council will provide a limited litter control service on the county beaches, however we do not have the same financial or staffing resources available to us as in previous years. Every effort will be made to patrol and clean beaches and to ensure that our public amenities are kept litter free as far as possible, however each person who visits a beach **MUST** take personal responsibility for the rubbish that they generate, and should ideally remove it and take it home.

For further information, please contact Florence White, Communications Officer, Fingal County Council at 087 414 1580 / 01-890 5998 E: Florence.white@fingalcoco.ie

ENDS 28/05/10

Editors Notes:

Water Safety Messages

- **Never** swim alone or after dark
 - **Always** swim between the patrol area signs
 - **Don't** swim after eating or drinking alcohol
 - **Don't** swim when hot or tired
 - **Don't** swim in unfamiliar places
 - **Don't** swim out to sea or follow anything drifting
 - **Don't** stay in the water too long
 - **Don't** use inflatable toys
 - **Don't** be a bully on the beach
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- **Do** swim parallel and close to shore
 - **Do** what the lifeguard tells you
 - **Do** pay attention to signs on the beach
 - **Do** learn to use equipment before trying it in the water
 - **Wear a life jacket** if you're wind-surfing, boating, sailing or canoeing. Jet-skis and powerboats are not allowed in bathing areas.

Further information on Water Safety is available at www.iws.ie, and Fingal County Council's beach bye-laws can be viewed at

www.fingalcoco.ie/Environment/BeachesinFingal/BeachandForeshoreByeLaws2006/

Litter Messages

Take your litter with you. If bins are full or you can't find one near you, take away your rubbish when you're leaving.

Disposable Bar-B-Qs are dangerous when hot. Always pour cold water on your BBQ when you're finished cooking. Put it safely in the bin or take home with you.

Alcohol is not allowed on our beaches. Drinking alcohol can create a nuisance and a lot of litter on our beaches. Please don't bring alcohol to the beach.

Please keep dogs under control. All dogs should be on a lead in bathing areas between 11am and 6pm each day.