

## PRESS RELEASE

### HELP MAKE THIS A SAFE HALLOWEEN FOR EVERYONE

Each Halloween, approximately 300 bonfires are started on open spaces throughout Fingal County. Bonfires are illegal, dangerous, and account for an unacceptably high cost to the Council in the clear up and safe disposal of burned goods. The clean up last Halloween cost Fingal County Council €150,000. It can take up to 18 months for the damaged ground or plants to be fully reinstated, and we cannot emphasise enough that at a time of scarce resources, it is even more vital that people do not light bonfires or contribute materials to people collecting for bonfires.

#### Why should we avoid building or attending bonfires?

- Burning tyres and other toxic materials releases pollutants into the atmosphere, which is bad for our health, especially for asthma sufferers and those with respiratory diseases.
- Illegal bonfires are dangerous – children, adults and pets are at a high risk of injury and trauma from fireworks and bonfires.
- It's bad for the environment - burnt earth on parklands, pitches and community green spaces will take approximately 18 months to recover before grass will grow back.
- The clean up last Halloween cost Fingal County Council €150,000 - think what that could do for YOUR community?
- The Emergency Fire and Ambulance Services have an important and very busy job to do fighting fires and saving lives, and Bonfires are an unnecessary and avoidable extra burden on these busy men and women.
- Communities, especially older people, can become afraid when they see a bonfire and hear the associated noise.

**Fingal County Council is working very closely with your local Gardaí to make this a safe Halloween for everyone.**

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Contact Fingal County Council if you see a bonfire being built or if you see material such as pallets, tyres and old furniture being hoarded in advance of Halloween.  
Phone: 01-8905000 or email [custservices@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:custservices@fingalcoco.ie)

- Do not leave material lying around that may be taken for a bonfire; many garage or garden shed items such as petrol, white spirits, diesel, aerosols, batteries, tins of paint, bottles and tyres are extremely dangerous if set on fire
- Explain the dangers of illegal fireworks and bonfires to children and teenagers.

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GARDA  
STATION OR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES IMMEDIATELY**

**ENDS 24/10/11**