



# TIPS TO HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN

## IF A BONFIRE GETS OUT OF HAND

**DIAL 999 OR 112**



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### FIRE SAFETY

Further information on Fire Safety in the Home is available in a number of languages by visiting [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie) - Services - Fire & Rescue

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Laois County Council  
Fire Authority Advice



# HALLOWEEN SAFETY



# Halloween Safety



Bonfires and unauthorised fireworks displays are illegal in Ireland for a reason. Thousands of people throughout the Country have witnessed the pain and suffering of friends and family members because of fireworks and bonfire displays that have gone horribly wrong.

Be safe and stay safe tips:

- Bonfires are illegal and should be avoided where possible.
- Where bonfires do occur, they should be well clear of all residential areas and away from ESB cables and pylons.
- Ideally, the bonfire should be sited in a clear open space. It should be at a safe distance (preferably no less than 50 metres) from houses, buildings, trees, wooden fences, overhead cables or car parking areas.
- The layout of the area should also take the direction of the wind into account so that the bonfire does not blow towards the spectators and sparks are not carried towards any combustible materials.

- A bonfire should be supervised by adults and a perimeter ring should be established around the bonfire within which no person should be permitted.
- Never use petrol/paraffin etc to light a bonfire.
- Do not allow fireworks to be thrown on bonfires – this is highly dangerous.
- The site should have a suitable entrance(s) for emergency service vehicles and all access routes should be kept clear of obstruction.
- The bonfire should be kept to a manageable size and the maximum height should not normally exceed 3m. It should be evenly built so that it collapses inwards as it burns.
- Spectators should be kept at a minimum distance of three times the height of the bonfire to minimise the chances of injury in the event of the bonfire collapsing.
- The bonfire should not contain any potentially hazardous materials which may explode or give off toxic fumes, such as aerosols; batteries; bottles; foam-filled furniture, gas cylinders, tins of paint etc.



- Car / large tyres should not be used as they produce large amounts of toxic smoke, and they can roll off the bonfire when alight and travel significant distances.
- Light-weight materials that may be blown away while on a fire should not be used.
- At the end of the event, the bonfire should be extinguished with water, and it should not be left until the person in charge is certain that it is out.
- If your bonfire gets out of hand, dial 999 / 112 and inform Laois County Council Fire Authority.
- If you dress up in dark clothes, add reflective material to improve visibility to all road users. Preferably only use fire retardant materials and make sure your costume has a genuine CE safety mark on its label.
- Hairspray is extremely flammable, so take this into consideration when dressing up.
- Keep costumes away from naked flames, including open fires, bonfires, candles and even sparklers.
- Ensure children are accompanied by a guardian.

