



**Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service**

**Protecting Our Community**

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 8**

### **BONFIRE ADVICE**

NIFRS will work pro-actively with our statutory agency partners, elected representatives and local communities to ensure the safety of the public and our personnel at bonfires.

NIFRS has a duty to ensure the safety of its personnel around bonfires and will therefore, visit bonfire sites to develop good relations with the local community and gain operational intelligence on their size, hazards and the risks to property.

NIFRS will not risk assess bonfire sites on behalf of any other individual, organisation or statutory agency.

### **THINK SAFETY FIRST WHEN BUILDING AND ATTENDING BONFIRES**

If we are called to a bonfire it's because somebody in that area is worried or concerned about the bonfire and NIFRS will respond. We are not out to spoil anyone's enjoyment but are there to protect life and property.

We also appeal directly to young people to never build huts or dens inside a bonfire, as by doing so they are putting their life in danger.

NIFRS appeals to people to 'Think Safety First' when building bonfires by adhering to the following safety advice:

- Site the bonfire well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs
- Bonfires should be kept to a manageable size
- As a rule of thumb, the bonfire should be a minimum of five times the height from property, ie, if the bonfire is 10 metres tall, it should be at least 50 metres from the nearest building
- Build the stack so that it is stable and will not collapse
- Never build a hut or den inside the bonfire

NIFRS also appeals to 'Think Safety First' when attending a bonfire:

- Do not burn foam filled furniture, tyres, aerosols, tins of paint, or bottles
- Responsible adults should look after lighting the bonfire. Before lighting the fire, check that no children or pets are hiding inside it
- Never use flammable liquids (petrol or paraffin) to light the fire – use domestic firelighters
- Keep everyone away from the fire – especially children who must be supervised at all times
- For an emergency keep buckets of water, a garden hose or a fire extinguisher ready
- At any sign of danger, or in the event of an emergency, dial 999 and ask for Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

**For further information contact NIFRS Headquarters on 028 9266 4221**