



National Strategy for the Prevention and Detection of Land and Forest Fires

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is An Garda Síochána running this campaign?

Last year saw a dramatic increase in the number of land and forest fires in Ireland, with fires damaging a total of 782 hectares of Coillte lands and over 500 hectares of privately owned forests. The approximate cost of these fires totals €7 million in fire fighting costs, payroll, lost timber revenue and replacement costs.

Who are the other agencies involved?

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Coillte
- Teagasc
- Association of Irish Forestry Consultants
- IFS Asset Managers Ltd.
- Irish Farmers Association
- Fire Services

What do I need to do if I wish to undertake burning?

A person wishing to undertake burning within one mile of a wooded area, or other lands restricted by the Wildlife Acts, must notify in writing the Sergeant in Charge of the local Garda Station where the land is situated.

How do I notify my intention to burn?

Notification of your intention to burn can be posted, or delivered in person, to the Sergeant in Charge of the local Garda Station where the land is situated. A record of the notification will be retained by An Garda Síochána for reference.

When do I need to notify An Garda Síochána?

You must notify An Garda Síochána of your intention to burn not less than seven (7) days and not more than thirty five (35) days prior to undertaking the burning.

Am I committing an offence if I do not notify An Garda Síochána?

Burning within 1 mile of a wooded area, or of any other lands restricted by the Wildlife Acts, without notifying An Garda Síochána is an offence contrary to section 39 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 as amended by the Wildlife Act, 2000.

What are the penalties if I do not notify An Garda Síochána?

Failure to provide written notice is an offence carrying penalties, upon conviction, of

- **First Offence** - fine not exceeding €34.87 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both,
- **Second Offence** - to a fine not exceeding €1,269.74 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both, and
- **Third Offence** - a fine not exceeding €1,904.61 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

Should I notify anyone else?

Where prescribed burning is to be used, careful planning, including consultation with all interested parties, agencies and neighbouring landowners is essential, if the burning is to be carried out in a responsible manner.

What precautions do I need to take when burning?

An Garda Síochána is appealing to every member of the community, particularly those living near wooded areas, to comply with the legislation and undertake burning in **a controlled manner**. In addition, members of the community should make themselves aware of the necessary precautions relating to controlled burning by contacting the local fire services or the Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food for advice.

Who can I call if I believe unauthorised burning is taking place?

If you see a fire, which you believe to be unauthorised, you should contact the emergency services immediately by calling 112 or 999.