

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Key Messages



Stay Safe Over The Bonfire Period

Young people are urged to stay safe over the bonfire period and attend an organised display instead of holding their own.

A number of displays will be held across Wirral and young people are urged to check their local council websites this year to find their nearest display.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MF&RS) is working with partner agencies, including Merseyside Police and local councils, to prevent anti-social behavior and fires at this time of year.

Bonfires are only allowed on private land with the owner's permission and must be supervised by an adult at all times. Keep water handy and ensure the fire is completely out before leaving it at the end of the evening.

If appliances are called out to deliberate bonfires, wheelie bin fires and rubbish fires this may delay a response to other emergencies.

Keep children safe:

Parents are asked to make their children aware of the dangers and consequences associated with fire setting and fireworks misuse.

Multi-agency work is being undertaken with children and young people in schools about the hazards at this time of year as well as the consequences of anti-social behaviour.

Parents are urged to take extra care if children are wearing fancy dress costumes over Halloween or the bonfire period. Fancy dress costumes should be kept away from lit pumpkins, lanterns and fires. People can also opt for LED battery-operated tea lights, which do not have a naked flame.

A list of activities held in Wirral across the period will be published on www.teenwirral.gov.uk

Wheelie Bins:

Wheelie bins can become easy targets over the bonfire period. Residents are advised to only put out their bin on the day of collection and bring it back in immediately.

Where possible they should lock wheelie bins away. They should be stored away from windows and doors.

Fireworks:

Fireworks can only be sold by retailers with a registration from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service during the period October 15 to November 11.

Planned activities this year will include high visibility policing; advice to shops regarding the sale of fireworks, alcohol, flour and eggs to young people; seizing illegal fireworks; carrying out test purchases and engaging young people in positive activities.

Pets may become frightened by fireworks on over the bonfire period and where possible should be kept indoors.

Hate Crime:

Firework misuse, anti-social behaviour and arson attacks against persons who have specifically been targeted due to the colour of their skin, their sexuality, race or religion can be classed as hate crimes and will not be tolerated. Dedicated teams are available to catch offenders. This type of incident carries severe penalties for those who are convicted of a hate crime.

Further information and our bonfire safety video will also be available during the bonfire period on the MF&RS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/merseyfire and on Twitter by following @Merseyfire at www.twitter.com/merseyfire.