

Fire Safety on holiday

Holiday makers are also at risk during the gorse fire season and need to take precautions.

Walking

It is advisable not to go walking in areas where there are Gorse Fires, but if you are caught in a Gorse Fire you should:

Never try to outrun the flames.

Head for natural fire break, e.g. streams, clearings, rock outcrops.

Keep away from high ground in the path of the fire.

Cover yourself or shelter behind a solid object such as a rock, to protect against radiant heat.

On the Road

Gorse fires may jump roads, so try to find an alternative route if you are confronted by a gorse fire.

Smoke from gorse fires can obscure vision similar to foggy conditions. Remember to slow down and light up appropriately so you can be seen by other vehicles.

Camping

People on camping or caravan holidays must ensure that they are familiar with local fire restrictions.

Make sure you are familiar with restrictions applying to fires and barbeques.

Make an escape plan for your caravan and practise with everyone who lives with you.



GORSE FIRE SAFETY Fire Safety for Rural Dwellers/Dwellings



Call 999 or 112

Ask for the Fire Service.

Speak calmly and clearly.

Give your address and phone number.

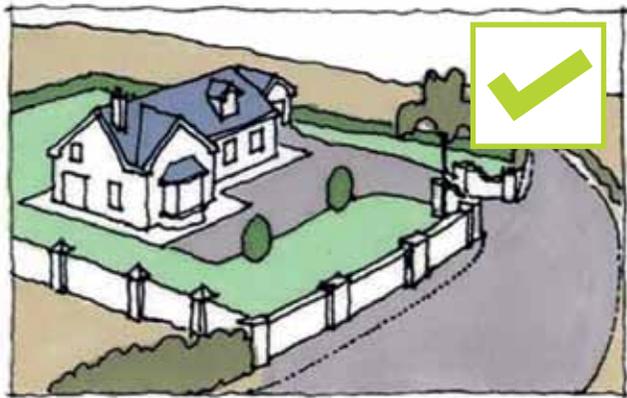
**If you are ringing from a mobile,
say what county you are in.**

Only hang up when the operator tells you to.



Kerry Fire and Rescue Service
Fire Station Balloonagh Tralee
Email. fireoff@kerrycoco.ie
Tel. 066 71 23111 Fax. 066 71 29433





✓ Area surrounding dwelling is clear of dry, dead combustible vegetation. Clear access is provided for fire fighting vehicles.

Some basic measures to improve your home safety

Smooth Surfaces - paint or refurbish dried exterior timber, repair nooks or crannies where leaves and debris can gather and clear away any such leaves and debris from those areas and similar spaces around and beneath buildings or raised decking. Design pathways, driveways and lawns around your home to keep a clear area immediately around your home.

Roofing - tiled and slated roofs provide good fire resistance providing that they are well maintained. Thatch roofs will present the greatest risk.

Walls - Choose non-flammable wall materials such as blockwork or brick. Timber and other cladding can warp or catch fire. Gaps in the external roof and wall cladding need to be sealed (except for necessary ventilation openings and chimneys, etc. that should not be sealed).

Property Access - Ideally, gateways should be at least 4 metres wide. There should be clear access with adequate space for fire fighting vehicles.

Gutters - Regularly clean gutters and remove leaves and bark from any areas where they can become trapped

Garden Maintenance for Fire Safety

Reducing the amount of fuel on a property is one of the most critical components of preparing for gorse fires. Measures include -

Removing dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home especially under the trees.

Pruning trees that are lower than two metres above the ground or overhanging your home.

Reducing, removing and managing vegetation such as long grass within 20 metres of your home and within 5 metres of any sheds, garages and oil tanks.

Removing bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and any other flammable materials close to your home and sheds.



X Excessive combustible 'dead' vegetation in close proximity to dwelling.



X Restricted Access- Access to dwelling is too restricted for fire fighting purposes.

Further Measures for Fire safety

There are various other measures that can be taken in the garden to protect your home. They include -

Making sure garden hoses are long enough to reach around your house.

Using stone walls, earth barriers and fences close to your home as a radiant heat shield.

Develop a well maintained vegetable garden, as it can act as an excellent fire break.

Planting trees and shrubs with space between them so as they do not form a continuous canopy.