

Bonfires and Smoke Pollution

Bonfires can damage your health, pollute the environment and spoil your enjoyment of your city.

No one wants to sit outside or put washing out when bonfires are burning. Much worse, bonfires seriously damage the health of children, the elderly and those with breathing problems or asthma. Smoke contains poisonous chemicals and causes cancer.

Firefighters are called out TEN TIMES A DAY to fight needless rubbish fires.

- While firefighters are putting out rubbish fires they are not available for real emergencies.
- Rubbish fires hurt everyone by polluting our atmosphere. There are better, safer and cleaner ways of disposing of your rubbish.
- Have your rubbish collected and help firefighters fight arson.

You don't need to have a bonfire:

- Most garden and kitchen waste, even paper and cardboard can be composted. Recycle your waste at clothes, glass and paper banks throughout the city.
- For further advice on recycling contact your local council.
- You can put two sacks of your burnable garden waste for collection with your domestic refuse free each week. Soil and rubble is not collected. Other bulky items can be collected free of charge.
- Your local council should be able to provide details.

To find out how to stay safe call

0800 389 5525

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

Businesses MUST have a trade waste agreement to show how they dispose of their rubbish and can be PROSECUTED for having fires that produce dark smoke.

- If you see dark smoke or bonfires on industrial or business premises call the public health department at your local council.

All West Midlands borough councils recommend that you DO NOT have your own bonfires.

- It is ILLEGAL to burn tyres, rubber, roofing felt, vinyl, foam, paint, oil, painted wood, diesel and petrol; or anything which causes dark smoke.

It is AGAINST THE LAW to cause a nuisance to your neighbours with a smokey bonfire.

If you are troubled by neighbours lighting garden bonfires:

- Speak to them, they may not realise they are causing you a problem.
- If you still experience problems, contact the public health department at your local council.

For dangerous fires call the Fire Service by dialling 999.

To stay safe and avoid accidents, we recommend that you attend an organised event when celebrating bonfire night.

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