



Bonfires Safety Guidelines and Rules for Allotment Tenants

Guidelines:

1. The Council does not encourage Tenants to light bonfires. Fire is inherently dangerous, and bonfires represent a hazard not only to Tenants but to anyone visiting the allotments site. In this regard Tenants are reminded of their responsibilities under section 3.12 of this agreement (Health and Safety).
2. As well as posing a danger to others the smoke produced from burning allotment waste contains pollutants which add to local air pollution and reduces the air quality in the surrounding area. Bonfires can also cause a nuisance to other Tenants and to the occupants of nearby houses. If residents wish to enjoy their gardens, hang out their washing or have their windows open, a nearby bonfire may interfere with their well-being or enjoyment of their property. You are also reminded that anyone who allows smoke from a fire to drift across a road may be subject to a fine under the Highways (Amendment) Act 1986 if it is causing a danger to road users.
3. A bonfire may be a convenient method for disposing of waste, but more environmentally friendly methods should be considered first. Green waste will produce a good soil conditioner for your allotment, and this may reduce the amount of compost you have to buy. You can compost almost all green waste from your allotment, including vegetable matter, grass cuttings, leaves and paper in small quantities. Wherever possible please use the compost areas provided at the allotments site. Alternatively, material can be chipped or taken to the local Household Waste & Recycling Centre.
4. If it is essential for you to light a bonfire you must adhere strictly to the following rules. Failure to adhere to these rules will be deemed a breach of this agreement and will result in termination.

Rules:

During tenancy, the following bonfire safety procedures and guidelines will be followed:

- a) Bonfires may be constructed only in a fire-proof container within the confines of the Tenant's allotment garden. The only exceptions being, during the first six months of a new Tenant taking over a plot, or with the prior approval of the Council.
- b) Bonfires must not be lit on a Sunday or after 6pm on an evening.
- c) Bonfires must be restricted to the burning of natural materials taken from the Tenant's allotment garden. Under no circumstances should material, of any kind, be brought on to the allotment site to be burned.
- d) Old engine oil, methylated spirits, diesel, petrol or any other flammable oil including paraffin must not be used to light the fire or to keep it going once it is alight.
- e) Bonfires must always be supervised by the Tenant and must not be allowed to get out of control. They must be properly doused and extinguished before the Tenant leaves the site.
- f) Lit bonfires must be extinguished if it is clear from complaints received that the fire is causing inconvenience to other Tenants or to local residents.
- g) Bonfires must be extinguished when the wind is blowing in the direction of residential property adjoining the allotments site.

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