

News Release

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BONFIRE NIGHT SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Safety advice for anyone holding private bonfire night parties

BONFIRE parties can be fun but have the potential for causing serious injury.

That's the message from organisations involved in the joint Bonfire Night Safety Campaign, who are urging people to attend organised bonfire night events. However, if you are having a private bonfire night party, there are some crucial safety points which should be observed.

The IoM Fire Service's Community Safety Officer Steve Cretney said: 'First of all the Fire Service recommends that you don't have a bonfire in your garden but if you choose to, you should ensure it's at least 18 metres away from any building – such as your house or garden shed – or hedge. When you light your bonfire, use domestic firelighters and not paraffin or petrol as this can lead to the fumes igniting and injuring spectators.'

Anyone planning a bonfire should advise the Emergency Services Joint Control Room in advance, by phoning 697327. In an emergency always ring 999.

Sub Officer Cretney added that having a garden hose laid out and readily accessible would provide a means of controlling a small fire and if, despite taking precautions, your clothing catches fire then remember:

- STOP where you are
- DROP to the ground
- ROLL over and over

Assess any burns and seek medical help if required.

More information at www.iomfire.com

ENDS