

What's the alternative to a blazing bonfire this Halloween? Spleodar!

With Halloween just around the corner, communities nationwide are preparing for the time old tradition of lighting bonfires to celebrate the occasion. While traditionally wood and straw were used for bonfires there is increasing evidence that individuals are using Halloween bonfires as an opportunity to dispose of waste illegally. Deirdre Cox, Environmental Awareness Officer with North Tipperary County Council advises that 'Providing household waste material for burning in a Halloween bonfire is committing a criminal offence. It also harmful to the environment as burning of such waste material contributes to over 50% of all harmful dioxin emissions in Ireland'. Ms Cox added that "As we approach Halloween time, we see everything from tyres and lawnmowers to sofas and gas bottles heaped up on our open spaces, ready for the big night. But before we get together with our children and neighbours to celebrate the tradition, spare a thought for your health as well as your local environment where you live and work"

North Tipperary County Council would like to remind householders of the health and environmental impacts of burning bonfires and would request everyone to be safe and vigilant this Halloween. Ms Cox stated that "Nobody likes to be a party pooper or engage in scaremongering but the fact is that tyres, in particular, which are commonly used as fuel in bonfires, are one of the most polluting materials when burned. The application of chemicals in the manufacturing process makes tyres a very dangerous product once heat is applied; they contain many chemicals which produce toxic fumes during combustion and these are emitted into the air we breathe. They contaminate the land around the fire and the back-gardens over which the smoke passes. We must be very concerned about emissions from bonfires, as they are a major source of pollution."

So this Halloween, stay safe and healthy and avoid bonfires if at all possible. Spreagann Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh an pobal le Laghdú, le hAthúsáid agus le hAthchúrsáil an oiread agus is féidir.

What's your alternative for Halloween celebrations?

Why not celebrate the tradition of Halloween and go along to The Annual Spleodar Festival of which North Tipperary County Council & Nenagh Town Council are the main sponsors? Enjoy a night of 'Trapeze, music and fireworks' in a safe and friendly environment at Eire Og GAA complex in Nenagh on SATURDAY 30th October from 7pm where adults and children can have a night of fun for just € 2 away from the fumes of the bonfires.

Free information fact sheets on burning waste are available from North Tipperary County Council Environment Section, telephone 067 44791. A full programme of events planned for Spleodar are available on www.spleodar.ie

Ends

Further information:

Deirdre Cox

Environmental Awareness Officer

06744784