

## Safety Alert to IWEA members.

### Fire Warning: Gorse Fires

**The frequency and intensity of Gorse fires has increased significantly in recent weeks. Forested areas, dry open bog/scrubland and wind farm sites may be susceptible in the event of fire. People caught in these areas may be at risk.**



#### Hazards:

- Fire can rapidly spread causing damage to the environment, dwellings and infrastructure
- Gorse fire may jump across roads
- Smoke can obscure vision and cause disorientation
- 'Controlled Fire', Littering, Smoking, Hot work and exhaust fumes can create hazards leading to uncontrollable fire spread
- Vandalism and setting vehicles alight can cause fire

#### Precautions:

- Do not park over dry vegetation, **hot exhaust heat can radiate to dry vegetation** and cause fire
- Check local conditions before visiting site; complete a job plan; identify evacuation routes and be familiar with emergency protocols
- **If you are caught in the path of a gorse fire. Call for help // Keep away from high ground in the path of fire // take shelter to protect against radiant heat//Seek fire break**

#### Precautions on Site:

- Discuss any issues with landowners / contractor(s)
- Apply strict housekeeping controls; avoid littering and waste accumulation
- Maintain strict controls on smoking and the disposal of cigarette butts
- Permits to Work for **hot work activity** is applied. Ensure there is a fire watch.
- Store fuel and chemicals in suitable containers, and away from direct sunlight
- **Roving patrols may detect the early onset of fire. On detection, notify Site Management, emergency services and Control Centre.**