



Fire Danger Notice 11 of 2018
Issue date: 26 June 2018 @ 1200hrs

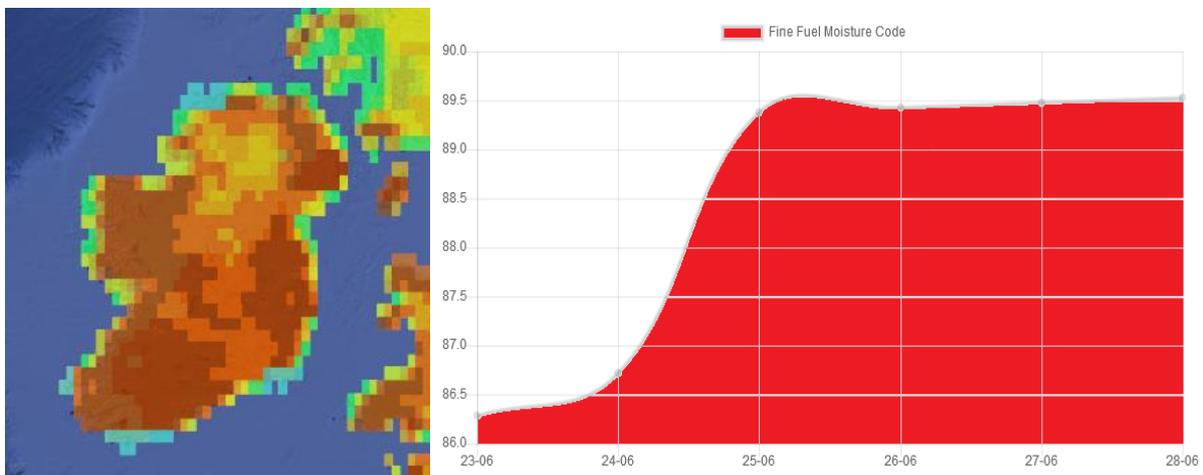
Forest Fire Danger Rating



Condition RED – Extreme Fire Risk
Take Immediate Action

Warning Effective From 1200hrs 26/06/2018
Effective Period Expires 1200hrs 29/06/2018

Arising from current prolonged high pressure weather patterns, high temperatures and effective drought conditions, an extreme fire risk is deemed to exist in all areas where hazardous fuels exist. This meteorological risk is further compounded by high levels of public activity and related ignitions risks associated with the fine weather.



Fire Weather Data Courtesy of European Commission Copernicus System, European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and Met Eireann.

DAFM advise at this point that all outdoor use of fires, barbeques and other open ignition sources be avoided on forest lands and in other high risk areas until further notice. Extreme caution is also advised with respect to hay making and the use of machinery and other agricultural activity that may also present a risk of fire in dry vegetation on cultivated land types in current conditions.

Pending further review, this risk condition will remain in place until 1200hrs on Friday, June 29th, 2018 and will revert to Condition Orange at this point unless otherwise indicated.

BE PREPARED. BE VIGILANT. STAMP OUT FOREST FIRES.



Fire Weather Index Values

Fine Fuel Moisture Code value (FFMC) is currently above **80** and expected to remain above this threshold for at least the remainder of the week, indicating increasing flammability levels in dead upland vegetation as the week progresses. This situation may prolong into the following week. Live fuel moisture levels can be expected to decrease under prolonged high temperatures and drought conditions. Projected Initial Spread Index (ISI) values are in the very high range for Irish conditions, indicating a strong potential for challenging fire behaviour in shrub fuel types, particularly where localised wind conditions permit.

Forecast wind speeds are not expected to surpass the critical 30km/h threshold but may present in excess of 20km/h in some coastal areas at times. EFFIS analysis suggests that risks will be most acute in Coastal regions and should **maximise between Wednesday 27/06/2018 and Thursday 28/06/2018.**

Advisory

Under extreme Fire Risk Conditions any ignition source in hazardous fuels may give rise to rapid and unpredictable wildfire development and spread, particularly in dead grasses, and in shrub fuels like gorse and heather. Under these conditions, upland fires can be expected to cover extensive areas and pose extreme difficulties to suppression efforts and may potentially give rise to Major Emergency scenarios.

The issue of Condition Red Extreme fire risk warnings is a comparatively rare event and implies that recipients should take immediate action to protect resources and property. Such action may involve the mobilisation, assembly and prepositioning of resources such as water tankers, machinery, personnel and air support in high risk areas.

Contracted Air Support should now be notified for immediate readiness when required.

Preliminary notification of Aid to Civil Power / Aid to Civil Authority requests by relevant authorities may also be warranted where extreme conditions are deemed likely to exist, and where emergency response requirements may be likely to exceed the capabilities of Civil Authorities.

Forest owners / managers, other land managers, landowners and local authorities should now implement fire patrols to exclude all fire activity from the landscape and enforce relevant fire protection legislation for the duration of this notice.

Rural residents should also implement a high degree of vigilance, and check on elderly or other vulnerable neighbours and assist with preparation and reassurance, and evacuation if this is deemed necessary by the Local Authorities.

Members of the public and visitors to recreational areas should cooperate with all requests regarding fire safety, obey all relevant bye-laws and be considerate in parking vehicles so as not to impede access by emergency vehicles.

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Advice to the General Public/Forest Visitors

Where fire outbreaks occur at or near recreational areas the following actions should be taken by visitors in the interests of safety.

1. Do not light fires in and around forests or open land.
2. Do not attempt to intervene or fight fires under any circumstances.
3. Gather all family/group members and move to a safe fuel-free location such as a car park, upwind of the fire.
4. Telephone Fire and Rescue Services via 112 and report the fire and its location.
5. Evacuate if instructed to do so, and cooperate with all Emergency Service Instructions.

Further information on fire management and wildfire protection is available at

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/firemanagement/>

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