



| Press Release

Press release from **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service** and **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority**
Making Derbyshire Safer Together

1 MAY 2020

TAKE THE PLEDGE – SAY NO TO A GARDEN FIRE DURING THE ONGOING PANDEMIC

Firefighters across Derbyshire are asking people to pledge not to have a garden fire during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

This latest plea comes as Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Services has seen an increase in garden fires.

The Service has also been contacted by a number of residents who have found it hard to leave their homes to exercise, due to the smoke coming from local garden fires, where people have been burning garden and household waste.

The message is also being backed by local authorities across the county, with an increase in air pollution being shown to negatively affect the health of those with respiratory illnesses.

Prevention and Inclusion Group Manager Lee Smith said “We fully appreciate that people will have excess waste as they are spending much more time at home, but we would really discourage people from burning it in the garden, so we are asking them to pledge not to have a garden fire at this time.

“Garden fires can very easily get out of control, and we have to send a full crew to deal with it. The smoke can also cause real issues for people with respiratory illnesses. We’ve had reports from some people who haven’t been able to go out in their own gardens.

“At a time when we all need to come together we’re asking that, whilst they’re staying at home, people head to our website and pledge not to have a garden fire during the on-going pandemic. It only takes 30 seconds and will make a big difference to your community.”

email: enquiries@derbys-fire.gov.uk
www.derbys-fire.gov.uk

Gavin Tomlinson MBA MIFireE
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive



To sign the pledge, visit www.derbys-fire.gov.uk/pledge

In pledging not to have a garden fire during the pandemic you will be supporting your firefighters across Derbyshire, and people with respiratory illnesses.

ENDS