

Scouting Ireland
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Ref: L33/2017 - Scout Den Fire Safety Notice Update

7th November 2017

Dear Scouter,

I am writing to you, further to my letters (L24-2017 & L27-2017), to update you on the current fire safety issue, which arose following a number of complaints to Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) from members of the Public.

Following my last communication work has been progressing on this issue with the Risk Management Advisory Team and they are continuing to act on our behalf to design supports and solutions for Scout Groups.

As noted previously a 'National Plan' was agreed as follows:

National Plan

1. Scouting Ireland has engaged the services of a Fire Safety Consultant to act as advisor to the organisation.
2. The Fire Safety Consultant will engage with the RMAT, the Training Team and other elements of Scouting Ireland to develop one common safety standard for dens and meeting places.
3. The Fire Safety Consultant, in appropriate situations, will liaise with the local Fire Authority on behalf of individual Scout premises in the ownership of Scouting Ireland or its trust companies or by any other trust that complies with our Constitution and Rules.
4. The RMAT are in discussion with Dublin Fire Brigade about providing initial training to a number of Scouters around the country. These Scouters would then draw up a fire safety training module, with help where necessary, with a view to it being passed down the line to Counties and Groups.
 - a. Note: This training module will be developed, like all matters pertaining to training, by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resource) and the National Adult Resources Committee in conjunction with the RMAT.
5. A number of offers of assistance have been received recently from Scouters that have expertise Fire Safety. The RMAT plan to utilise this expertise to validate the solutions proposed by the consultant and the RMAT.

All of these action points are progressing and a Den & facilities questionnaire has recently been issued to enable the team to get a better understanding of the types of properties that Scout Groups are using. Thank you to those Scout Groups that have completed this. The information you have provided will be of immense benefit to this project.

Scout Groups Engaging Their Own Fire Consultant.

We have had a number of questions from Scout Groups that wish to engage their own Fire Safety Consultant. As noted previously, Scout Groups are free to do this if they so wish but we would like to remind you that the organisation is carrying out this work so Scout Groups do not have to incur this expense.

Reg. No. 397094
Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

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Scout Groups that want to proceed with this, should ensure that whoever is engaged should be appropriately qualified. The person must;

- have appropriate qualifications
- be a member of a recognised and appropriate professional body (such as the Institution of Fire Engineers or the Fire Protection Association).
- Have adequate professional indemnity policy for at least €10,000,000
- Prepare a written report identifying the minimum requirements to ensure safety in an identified building. This should specify whether or not sleepovers would be appropriate.

The Scout Group must comply with the noted requirements and this must be certified. A copy of the report and certificate must be furnished to the RMAT who will then assess the risk level to the Group.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing cooperation as we advance this important work for the organisation and should you have any additional queries, suggestion or concerns, please contact our Group Support Facilitator James Fox at jfox@scouts.ie.

I will continue to be in contact, and will keep groups informed as we complete the task required.

Yours in Scouting



Charles McGuinness
National Secretary

CC:

All Scouters
Professional Staff

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