

## ITGA webinar on forest fire prevention

February is regarded as the beginning of the fire danger period – both forest and wildfires. The Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) has called on the public to help prevent damaging forest fires.

"We ask the public to report land fires to the fire brigade and relevant authorities," says Donal Whelan, technical director ITGA. "The speed of response is critical."

As part of its fire awareness pro-

gramme, the ITGA has organised a webinar for February 10, which is free of charge. The timing is right because for the next few months, fire risk is high, as ground vegetation is dead and dry and many vegetation types will not green up until May.

"Several hundreds of hectares can be destroyed annually in Ireland, which has a devastating impact on biodiversity and wildlife," says Whelan.

"It also represents a significant personal economic loss to those farmers and landowners who have planted woodlands, seriously impacting on

their personal income with knock on effects for local communities."

ITGA and forestry.ie, with the support of the Department and the *Irish Farmers Journal* are resuming their series of webinars, beginning with forest fire prevention and control. The speakers are:

👉 **Ciaran Nugent** – regional forestry inspector with the Forest Service and a qualified wildland firefighter. He has completed fire management training in the US and Spain and is an EU designated national expert on forest fires and a member of the European Forest

Fires Group.

👉 **Anthony Tynan** – senior assistant chief fire officer with Laois County Fire and Rescue Service, he is a qualified fire safety engineer. He has completed professional wildfire management training in Spain and has participated in fire management exchanges in Spain, Portugal, France and the UK.

For registration, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kRe5EJRjRmelZI5tohLmeQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kRe5EJRjRmelZI5tohLmeQ) or search forestry.ie.

Alternatively, click on [www.forestry.ie/insights](http://www.forestry.ie/insights) to register.