

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illegal campfire in Lorne

Great Ocean Road Coast, CFA and Surf Coast Shire Council have issued a warning to illegal campers after an illegal campsite at the Quarry Reserve, between Five Mile Track and Erskine Avenue, Lorne sparked safety concerns after a campfire was left smouldering last week.

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's Coastal Reserves Manager Caleb Hurrell said the illegal camping ground was discovered by the conservation staff as they were mulching the area.

"Reckless people creating their own party zones is a growing concern along the coast, especially as we enter into the busy summer season," said Mr Hurrell.

"As well as being a fire risk, illegal party sites also cause significant environmental damage."

CFA Operations Officer Wayne Aylmer said being on holiday is no excuse for doing the wrong thing.

"We are asking everyone to stop for a minute and think about the threat to the community and what could happen if your camp fire gets out of control," he said.

"Too often our members are called out to reports of a fire only to find a campfire burning or smouldering and no one around and it's just plain reckless. You should always apply the rule – cool to touch, safe to leave."

Surf Coast Shire Council Mayor Brian McKitterick wants everyone to be able to enjoy the Surf Coast.

"Unattended fires can be disastrous, especially in our hinterland and dense forest areas," Cr McKitterick said.

"People should not leave a campfire unattended at any time of the year."

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