



## **STORM OPHELIA - PUBLIC URGED TO STAY AWAY FROM FALLEN TREES**

### **ALL COILLTE FORESTS CLOSED**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Coillte is reiterating that all Coillte Forests are closed to the public following the status red warning Met Éireann issued for ex hurricane Ophelia. The public are again being asked to remain vigilant for fallen and damaged trees. Members of the public should not attempt to remove fallen trees or branches and are asked instead to contact emergency services in the event that access routes are blocked.

Mick Power, National Estate Risk Manager Coillte noted that *“We have received reports of people in our forests and cannot stress enough how dangerous it is for anyone to enter a forest with Storm Ophelia moving through the country. Public access to forests is strictly prohibited. We continue to ask the public to be vigilant for fallen trees and not to attempt to clear any fallen trees themselves, report them to emergency services or Coillte”*

Dealing with fallen trees is extremely dangerous and the public are urged to stay away from any fallen trees or debris. Only trained experts should engage in tree clearance activities. Any roads or access routes that are blocked by fallen trees should be reported to Emergency Services or directly to Coillte at the following details: Michael Power – 0353 86 253 2262 or [michael.power@coillte.ie](mailto:michael.power@coillte.ie)

All Coillte recreation facilities will remain closed today and **no public access is permitted to any Coillte Forests until further notice**. Further updates will be provided as the situation evolves.

**ENDS//**

#### **About Coillte**

Coillte is a commercial forestry company, owned by the State, that manages approximately 7% of the country’s land. Coillte operate three strong businesses from this land - their core Forestry Business, a Wood Panels manufacturing business MEDITE SMARTPLY and a Land Solutions business.

Coillte export to over 30 countries worldwide and in the financial year 31 December 2016 generated EBITDA of €98 million. Coillte's vision is to be the best Forestry and Land Solutions company in Europe. To find out more visit [www.coillte.ie](http://www.coillte.ie)