



## **Storm Ophelia - Coillte Urges Forest Users to Exercise Extreme Caution**

**Tuesday 17th October 2017:** Coillte urges all users of forest lands including its staff, contractors and members of the public, to exercise extreme caution if entering forest lands following the damage caused by ex-hurricane Ophelia.

Early indications are that Coillte's forests have sustained damage from the strong winds of Storm Ophelia and Coillte have commenced the assessment of their forests to determine the level of damage nationwide. Coillte estimate that it could take a number of weeks before the full extent of the damage is known.

Fallen and overhanging trees pose an extremely dangerous risk to the public and Coillte is urging everyone to remain vigilant and to exercise extreme caution if entering forest lands over the coming days. Members of the public should not approach fallen or overhanging trees as they pose a significant health and safety risk and access routes blocked by trees should only be cleared by trained experts.

**Fallen or overhanging 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)**

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### **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 €98.3 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)