MAURITIUS FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

NAVRATRI CELEBRATION 2017

Navratri 10-day Hindu festival from Thursday, September 21 to Saturday, September 30, 2017.

The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service advises the celebrating community to adhere to a few basic precautionary measures to avoid the risk of injury due to fires and other related incidents. These measures shall be observed from start to the end of the festival.

SAFETY TIPS:

A. **During Prayers**
   1. Observe a high standards of cleanliness at the prayer site – home and temples;
   2. Control & limit prayer items such that as camphor, Diya, incense stick, woods and ghee;

B. **Diya (oil lamp) and candle**
   1. Treat the Diya as you would treat any other flame;
   2. Use only enough oil/ghee for a Diya to last the event;
   3. Make sure the Diya rests securely on a surface;
   4. Keep lamps a safe distance from curtains, furniture and decorations;
   5. Clothing (especially saris and dupattas) can be very flammable. Keep your clothing away from flames and also be careful if you have long hair.

C. **Kitchen Fire Safety**
   (i) **Cooking pan and deep-frying**
   1. Keep the cooker away from curtains and other combustible materials;
   2. Never fill your cooking pan more than one third full of oil;
   3. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking.

   (ii) **LPG Cylinder**
   1. Always keep the cylinder in vertical position in a well-ventilated area;
   2. Check rubber hose for cracks and change hose before expiry date, printed on the hose;
   3. Strike the match / lighter first then open the burner knob of your gas cooker;
   4. After use, turn off the cylinder valve while the appliance is still operating; Then turn off the valve of the gas cooker;
   5. In case of leakage, turn off the gas valve, open all doors and windows.
D. Electrical safety

1. Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician;
2. Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets;
3. Do not overload electrical sockets and watch out for faulty and over-heating electrical equipment and wiring or cables;
4. Protect the electrical installations by an appropriate circuit breaker or fuse;
5. Extension cords are intended for temporary use only.

E. Temporary structure

1. Keep passageways free from obstructions. There shall be minimum of two exits leading to the open air in different directions from any tents;
2. All side of the tent shall be enclosed with a minimum height of 2.5 m;
3. If portable generators are used, keep these equipment in an isolated space at least 6 meters away from the tent canopies, so that the product of combustion does not get in the tent;
4. Refuel the generator when its engine is off, cool and outside the tent.

F. First Aid Tips

1. Cool the burn under cold running water for at least ten minutes;
2. After the burn has been cooled, cover it with cling film or a clean plastic bag;
3. If necessary, call SAMU on 114 or get someone else to do it.

If Clothes catches fire “Stop, drop, and roll”.
- Stop where you are;
- Drop to the ground and cover your eyes and mouth with your hands;
- Roll over and over and back and forth until the flames are out.

Note: Children shall always be under the close supervision of their parents or an adult.

“Have a happy and safe Navratri 2017”

Remember - in case of fire, call the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service on 115