



## **BONFIRES FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

### **General Safety**

- a) Bonfires must be built at least 10m away from any dry vegetation, tents, buildings or any combustible material.
- b) Clear a patch of bare earth to build the “Bonfires”
- c) Keep “Bonfires” to a manageable size (not exceeding 3m in height) and built so that they collapse inwards as they burn
- d) Check immediately before lighting that there is no animal or a child hidden underneath or near to it
- e) Never leave a burning “Bonfires” unattended
- f) Never use petrol or any other accelerant on a fire
- g) Do not put batteries, aerosols or other gas cylinders on the fire to avoid explosion
- h) Avoid bonfires in windy weather conditions
- i) Keep children and pets well away from the area
- j) If a burning “Bonfires” does get out of control, do not attempt to tackle it yourself - call **115**

### **Security Team**

- a) A Security Team shall be set up comprising of members who can take responsibility for a particular task, including one person to be in charge of all safety arrangements. *Example:-*
  - *Arrange for fire extinguishers, buckets of water and buckets of sand*
  - *Draw up a detailed checklist of tasks and indicate who is to be responsible for each one*
- b) The Team shall make provision of torches on the night, with full batteries.
- c) All invitees /spectators should be informed that they are not allowed to bring their own fireworks, including sparklers.

### **Crowd control**

- a) Spectators should be kept back on the opposite side to the dropping zone at least 25m from the firing area.
- b) Proper crowd control is essential and needs good planning as follows:
  - Arrange for some officials
  - Take great care at all times.
  - Plan your display in advance.
  - Do not allow smoking.
  - Before lighting any firework, read the instructions on it carefully by torchlight.
  - Make sure that the wind blows away from spectators.
  - The display should be angled away from spectators.
  - Never use matches or lighters for lighting fireworks at a display.
  - A sudden change of wind could cause aerial fireworks to fall dangerously among spectators and in very windy weather you should consider putting off the display altogether, however disappointing that might be.
  - Supervise all children carefully and keep them well back from the “Bonfires” and fireworks.

**In an emergency**

- In case of burn, cool the burn or scald with cold water for at least 10 minutes.
- Cut around material sticking to the skin - don't pull it off.
- Don't touch the burn or burst any blisters.
- Cover the burn with clean, non-fluffy material to prevent infection.
- If clothing catches fire, get the person to stop, drop to the ground and roll them in heavy material like a curtain.
- Get advice from a doctor or convey casualty immediately to local hospital.

**Firefighters are available 24/7  
For any assistance in case of fire and for rescue services  
Call the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service on 115**