

Festivals Fire Safety

The Fire Services Department wants to make sure everyone stays safe while celebrating.

The risk of fire increases at this time of year because of increase in use of candles, electric lightings and fireworks. But by taking a few simple precautions, you can make sure that you and your family stay safe and celebrate.

The Fire Services Department have some simple advice:

- Make sure all candles and lamps are in a safe and secure holder and placed on a heat resistant surface.
- Keep candles and lamps away from soft furnishings, including curtains and out of the reach of young children.
- Care should be taken with homemade decorated candles and lamps to ensure that the flame does not come into contact with anything which could catch fire.
- Candles should not be left unattended at any time; care should be taken when retiring to bed or while attending prayers.
- Ensure that all fireworks are store in a metal box.
- Read the instructions carefully before use.
- Never go back to an already lighted firework and keep a water type fire extinguisher nearby.
- While cooking during the festival do not leave cooking unattended.
- If a fire does break out get everyone out and stay out and call the Fire Service (Dial 115). Never go back into the building to collect belongings.

“We want everyone to have an enjoyable festival and stay safe at the same time. By following our advice, you can keep your family and home as safe as possible from the risks posed by fire.”

Fireworks Safety Tips For Kids

We often do not realise the potential danger, and therefore ignore even the most preliminary precautions. Caution and proper care can ensure a safe and fun-filled festival – it all boils down to a few simple dos and don'ts.

Never allow your kids to play with fireworks unattended

DO

- Supervise children while they light fireworks
- Make them light fireworks outside the house
- Have them hold sparklers away from the body
- Keep fireworks on even and flat ground while lighting them
- Light up rockets only on open ground
- Ensure proper distance from the fireworks away at a distance while they are lighting them
- Make sure they are wearing closed footwear and close-fitting clothes of thick material (instead of loose or flowing garments) while lighting fireworks
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy
- Check the area before igniting fireworks to ensure that no flammable materials are near
- Ensure they light only one firework at a time
- Discard used fireworks in a bucket of water

DON'T

- Let them bend over fireworks while lighting them, or approach them if in doubt about whether they are live or not
- Let them light fireworks while holding them in hand
- Let them keep fireworks in pockets
- Let them try to light used fireworks
- Let them light firecrackers with a matchstick, but rather a candle – this ensures sufficient distance between their hands and the cracker
- Let them use fireworks indoors
- Let them put fireworks into any container before lighting them up
- Let them mix anything with the contents of fireworks or make fireworks at home
- Let them ignite aerial fireworks where overhead obstruction (trees, wires, etc.) or even heavy wind exist
- Let them throw or point fireworks at other people

These small but important steps can ensure that the Festival of Lights does not bring darkness into your lives.