



Press Release

Press release from **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service** and **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority**
Making Derbyshire Safer

2 NOVEMBER 2018

CELEBRATE DIWALI SAFELY

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service (DFRS) is encouraging everyone to have a safe and happy Diwali which commences on 7 November 2018.

Known as the 'Festival of Lights', Diwali traditionally sees an increase in the use of candles, 'divas' (oil lamps) and fireworks, used as a representation of light which is a symbol of 'goodness' and to ward off 'darkness and evil'.

Station Manager for Prevention and Inclusion, Marc Redford said: "Whilst Diwali is a time that sees many families come together to celebrate, it can also bring an added risk of fire. With an increase in the use of candles, fireworks and divas, I would encourage everyone to check the following safety tips so everyone can enjoy this bright and vibrant festival."

Candle safety:

- Always put out candles before you leave a room and before you go to bed.
- Always place candles in a suitable holder to prevent them from falling over.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep candles away from clothes and hair – do not lean across candles.
- Keep candles out of draughts and away from curtains and other fabrics or furniture.

Firework safety:

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
- Store fireworks in a metal box with a lid.
- Light firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
- Don't put fireworks in your pocket and NEVER throw them.
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if necessary.
- Always keep a bucket of water on hand.

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Terry McDermott MA
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive



- Of course no celebration is complete without food. With extra cooking taking place during the festival, there is an increased risk of kitchen fires.
- Take extra care when deep-fat frying or cooking with oil. Hot oil can catch fire easily. Use a thermostat controlled deep-fat fryer which will ensure the fat doesn't get too hot.
- NEVER leave cooking unattended.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – they can easily catch fire. If this happens, remember to Stop, Drop and Roll.
- Keep tea towels, clothes and electrical leads away from the cooker and hob.
- Check that the oven or hob are switched off after you have finished cooking.

Have at least one working smoke alarm on every level of your home. This means smoke will reach your alarm much quicker, giving you and your family those vital extra seconds to Get Out, Stay Out and call 999.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service wishes everybody a safe and happy Diwali.

For more safety advice and information please visit www.derbys-fire.gov.uk and follow DFRS on social media via the handles below:

Twitter: @DerbyshireFRS

Facebook: DerbyshireFRS

Instagram: @derbyshirefrs