



Press Release

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

4 FEBRUARY 2019

CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR SAFELY

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service wants everyone celebrating the Chinese New Year, to stay safe.

Chinese New Year (5 February 2019) is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese calendar – but with any celebration there comes the increased risk of a fire.

Station Manager John Cooke said: “For many the Chinese New Year is a time to celebrate the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one at home with family and friends, but with any celebration the risk of fire increases. By taking a few simple precautions you can greatly reduce that risk.”

Chinese New Year - safety tips

- **Keep candles out of reach of children and animals** - children should be supervised at all times near flames. Keep flames from candles at a safe distance from curtains, furniture and decorations. Long hair and clothing are also very flammable.
- **Treat fireworks with great caution** - only buy fireworks marked with the CE mark and always read the instructions.
- **Sky/Flying lanterns** – Whilst lanterns are undoubtedly a popular and beautiful sight, the potential damage they can cause is significant. These floating lanterns not only constitute a fire hazard but also pose a risk to livestock, agriculture, camping activities, thatched properties and hazardous material sites.
- **Avoid overloading electrical sockets** - try to remember, one plug - one socket. If you must have more plugs connected always use a fused adaptor.
- **Most fires start in the kitchen - never leave cooking unattended.** When cooking deep-fried food, dry it before you put it in the hot oil. If the oil starts to smoke, turn off the heat and leave the pan to cool. Never fill the pan more than one-third full of oil. Never throw water over the pan.

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Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive



- **Fit working smoke alarms on every level in your home.** Ensure you test your smoke alarms every week.
- **Have a pre-planned and practised escape plan.** Ensure everyone in your home knows what to do in the event of a fire.

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