



Diwali Fire Safety

During Diwali, the Festival of Lights, the manner of celebration may vary for families and friends but the essence remains the same; to rejoice in the Inner Light (Atma) or the underlying reality of all things (Brahman). While celebrations often include fireworks, the lighting of candles and small earthenware oil lamps called diyas and cooking special meals for family and friends, fire safety should be an important part of the celebration.

Fireworks

- ♦ Only use fireworks purchased from a retail stand with a Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office permit. Fireworks that rise into the air, explode, travel laterally on the ground or emit projectiles are illegal to possess or use anywhere in Virginia (Class 1 Misdemeanor).
- ♦ Use fireworks a safe distance away from homes, and away from brush, leaves and flammable substances.
- ♦ Light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance.
- ♦ Place fireworks on stable ground and ensure it won't tip when firing. Never try to re-light "a dud" or malfunctioning firework!
- ♦ Soak spent fireworks in water for several hours before discarding into a fire-proof container. Keep the container outside, away from the home.
- ♦ Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case of fire.

Diyas and Candles

- ♦ Place diyas and candles firmly in a sturdy holder on a heat resistant surface.
- ♦ Keep flames at a safe distance from curtains, furniture, decorations and loose clothing. Closets do not provide sufficient space for open flames.
- ♦ Diyas and candles must be watched by an adult. Put them out before you leave a room and before you go to bed.
- ♦ If a diya or candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container and placed in a sink, on a metal tray, or in a deep basin filled with water.
- ♦ Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.

Safe Cooking



Stay in the kitchen while cooking.

Remove anything that can catch fire – Oven mitts, dish towels, food packaging, or curtains - away from your stovetop.

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas by creating a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the stove.

Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the cooktop.

If you do have a fire, call 9-1-1!

If you have a small grease fire in the pan, put on an oven mitt and carefully slid the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.



For additional fire and life safety information, visit loudoun.gov/firemarshal or call 703.737.8600.

