

Having a party?

Please follow these simple rules and celebrate safely:

- Plan escape routes from your home and garden in case of fire and tell your family, friends and guests about them;
- Keep door and window keys where they are easily accessible if there is a fire;
- Take special care of elderly people, children and those who may find it difficult to get out if there is a fire;
- Put out enough ashtrays, so ash and cigarette butts don't get put in wastepaper bins.



Fairy lights, candles and decorations:

- Keep candles away from curtains, Christmas trees, greeting cards, ribbons, decorations and other things that can catch fire;
- Put candles out when you leave the room and make sure they are completely out at night;
- Check fairy lights are in good working order and replace blown or broken bulbs;
- Make sure plug fuses are the right ones;
- Don't let light bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, such as paper or fabrics;
- Turn fairy lights off when you leave the house or go to bed.



Fireworks:

It's much safer to attend an organised display but if you do hold a private display make sure that you only buy fireworks from reputable suppliers and fireworks are marked BS 7114. Always follow the Firework Code:

www.fireworks.co.uk

- Keep the display area a safe distance from spectators, your home, sheds, vehicles and trees;
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time;
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary;
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper not matches or a lighter. Always stand well back;
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks;
- Direct any rockets or aerial fireworks well away from spectators and properties;
- Make sure the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving;
- Keep your pets indoors;
- **NEVER** use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire;
- **NEVER** return to a firework once it has been lit;
- **NEVER** put fireworks in pockets;
- **NEVER** throw fireworks.



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Barbeques:

- Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies;
- Ensure that you site your barbeque well away from fences, sheds, trees, shrubs and garden waste;
- If using a gas barbeque always ensure that you keep gas cylinders out of direct sunlight;
- **NEVER** use a barbecue if you suspect a gas leak;
- **NEVER** use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbeque – only use recognised lighters or starter fuel on cold coals;
- **NEVER** use a barbeque indoors or inside a tent, the carbon monoxide that they produce can kill;
- **NEVER** leave a lit barbeque unattended.



Sky (Chinese) Lanterns:

Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service does not recommend the use of Sky Lanterns. They are a fire risk to property, crops, vehicles, livestock and the environment. However if you do intend to use lanterns please follow this advice:

- Make sure the launch area is kept clear of flammable materials;
- Launch lanterns away from obstacles such as trees, electricity and telephone power lines or buildings;
- Check wind direction and speed before launch to ensure they do drift onto properties;
- **NEVER** use a damaged lantern;
- **NEVER** release lanterns in built up, urban areas;
- **NEVER** release lanterns near farm animals or growing crops;
- **NEVER** launch a lantern near a road or public highway, especially major roads and motorways;
- **NEVER** launch a lantern if the wind is stronger than a light summer breeze.

