



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **FIREFIGHTERS WARN: CELEBRATE SAFELY THIS DIWALI**

Firefighters from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are warning people to take extra care to ensure they stay safe from fire this Diwali (28 October).

Diwali, the festival of lights, is based around the use of small oil lamps (diyas) and candles, which are placed around the house. If left to burn unattended, these can be a serious fire hazard. The festival also involves more cooking and entertaining than usual, which can also increase the risk of fire.

Don't let a fire ruin your Diwali. Follow these simple tips to keep you and your family safe:

#### **Diyas, tea lights and candles**

- Always place diyas, tea lights and candles on heat resistant surfaces
- Make sure you keep the flame at a safe distance from curtains, furniture and decorations
- Keep long hair and clothing away from naked flames
- Children and pets should be supervised at all times near flames

#### **Cooking**

- Don't let yourself get distracted – never leave cooking unattended
- Take care when wearing loose clothing, as it can easily catch fire
- When cooking deep-fried food, dry it before you put it into hot oil
- If a pan with oil in does catch fire, don't move it and **never** throw water over it. Get out of the kitchen, close the door behind you and call 999

Firefighters from Slough fire station recently attended a house fire in Cippenham, which was caused by an unattended candle. Firefighter Paul Kendall, from the station's Blue Watch, said: "This was a serious fire that damaged much of the house but it could have been a lot worse – fortunately, no-one was injured.

"It only takes a couple of minutes for an unattended candle to fall over and set a room ablaze, so for your own safety and peace of mind please use candles safely and never leave them alone to burn unattended."

**ENDS.**