



R B F & R S

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FIREFIGHTERS OFFER SAFETY ADVICE AT BASANT MELA

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) will be joining in with the fun at the second annual Basant Mela, which takes place in Palmer Park, Reading on Sunday 18 July from 12pm-6pm. The Basant Mela is a festival organised by the Reading Cultural Association, which celebrates the traditional Pakistani and Afghan activity of flying kites to welcome in the summer months.

Firefighters from Wokingham Road fire station and RBFRS community safety staff will be on hand throughout the event to provide information and advice about how people can reduce the risk of a fire in the home and what they should do if a fire should occur. The crew from Wokingham Road will also be highlighting the importance of road safety by staging a realistic demonstration, during which they will use a live 'casualty' to show how firefighters rescue people from the wreckage of their vehicles following a road traffic collision.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to book a free Home Fire Safety Check at the festival. During a Home Fire Safety Check, RBFRS staff will visit the householder in their own home at a pre-arranged time, check the home thoroughly and give advice on how to keep safe from fire and other hazards.

Selina Sheikh, Community Safety Co-ordinator for Reading, said: "Talking to festival goers at the Basant Mela last year showed us that a number of people within the Asian community are less aware of fire safety issues, such as what to do if a fire starts when you are cooking with hot oil. The Mela is a great opportunity for us to talk to visitors about fire safety in the home and to let people know about our free Home Fire Safety Check scheme.

"RBFRS has members of the community safety team and volunteer community advocates who can communicate fire safety advice in Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi during Home Fire Safety Check visits. This is an invaluable service, as it ensures that people who do not speak English as their first language are not missing out on important information."

ENDS.