

## Fireworks

Over the next few months, a variety religious and cultural festival will be celebrated, often involving the use of fireworks. Fireworks, and sparklers, may be beautiful and fun but are dangerous and must be used safely and correctly. While the LFB support such celebrations, we want to encourage these to be undertaken safely. Below are a few hints and tips to keep you, and those important to you, safe.

### Safety tips for bonfires and fireworks

- If you're having your own fireworks display, plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and ensure it finishes before 11pm. Ideally attend a professionally organised event instead.
- Only buy fireworks which carry the CE or UKCA mark, keep them 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 and stand well back
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
- Build your bonfire clear of buildings, sheds, fences and hedges
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving
- Don't leave bonfires unattended. An adult should supervise it until it has burnt out. If it has to be left, damp it down with water.
- Always keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby in case of emergency

Further advice and guidance is available on the LFB website [London Fire Brigade - Fireworks](#)

## Candles

Candles are one of the common causes of fires in the home. Over 200 fires at home involved candles last year. The LFB encourage people celebrating all religious and cultural events to celebrate safely and use LED tea lights rather than candles to reduce the significant risk of fire.

### Benefits of flameless candles

Sometimes called LED, battery-operated, or electric candles - flameless candles have a number of advantages:

- You can leave them unattended
- You don't have to worry about pets or children knocking them over
- If you doze off while a flameless candle is on, it's not a problem
- You can use them outdoors
- You can buy flickering, rechargeable, coloured and waterproof versions

Don't want to switch? If you want to continue to use wax candles, take a look at how you can use them safely...

### How to use candles and incense safely

- Never leave candles, incense sticks and oil burners unattended - this includes 'Diya lamps' often used for worship and religious festivals.
- Make sure you put them out when you leave the room and especially before bed.
- Keep them in heat-resistant holders placed on a stable surface.

- Don't put them close to anything that can catch fire, such as curtains, papers, furniture, and clothes.
- To avoid accidents keep candles and all naked flames (including matches and lighters) out of the reach of children and pets.
- Tea lights get very hot and without proper holders can melt through plastic surfaces like a TV or bath.
- Take extra care when you're celebrating.

Celebrations often see us light candles, dress up, and display lots of decorations – this increases the risk of fire. Make sure all your decorations are kept away from naked flames.

If you're celebrating with fancy dress, always check that costumes are fire retardant in accordance to European standard EN71-2. Unfortunately, many children's costumes are classed as toys. This means they don't have to be made to the same safety standards as regular clothes and are a greater fire risk.

For further guidance and advice on candle safety go to the LFB website [London Fire Brigade - Candles](#) or use this QR Code



## Electronic Powered Personal Vehicles (EPPV'S) - e-Bike and e-Scooters

The London Fire Brigade continues to raise concerns about e-bikes, e-scooters and lithium-ion batteries. On average there was a fire from a lithium battery in an e-bike or e-scooter every two days in 2023 in London.

Whilst e-bikes and e-scooters offer a great way round the city, if the batteries become damaged or begin to fail, they can start incredibly ferocious fires within seconds. The majority of fires related to e-bikes and e-scooter have happened in homes. These fires are often caused when charging the batteries.

When these batteries are charged in communal areas or escape routes, a fire breaking out can quickly block people's ability to escape. Never store EPPV's, or anything that uses lithium-ion batteries in an escape route including communal areas such as hallways, landings, or balconies. If they catch fire they could block the escape route.

Many of these fires are caused by incompatible chargers, modifications to e-bikes, or faulty or counterfeit products which are purchased online. This includes chargers, lithium batteries and conversion kits for e-bikes.

London Fire Brigade's #ChargeSafe campaign wants to prevent fires in e-bikes and e-scooters. The LFB website has important and simple safety tips to reduce the risk of fire to protect you and your community. **#ChargeSafe:** [London Fire Brigade - Lithium Ion Batteries](#)



Scan this QR code for more information on keeping your e-bike and home safe, or visit: [london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe](https://london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe)

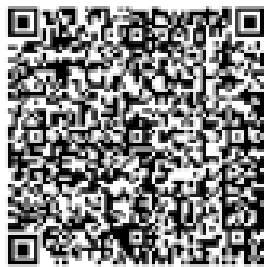
## Fire Safety at Home

We believe that the best way to keep Londoners safe from fire is to help you understand common risks and reduce them in your home.

Check your home's safe using our simple on-line tool, the [Home Fire Safety Checker](#) on the LFB website.

Using the Home Fire Safety Checker only takes a few minutes to check your home and get tailored advice for your family, or someone you care for. It's simple and practical – giving you specific advice for you, your family and your home. One of the most important ways you can protect yourself and loved ones to ensure you have working fire alarms installed in the home.

Scan this QR code:



or call us on **0800 028 4428**.

