

# Public urged to observe fire safety and keep countryside clean

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (September 15) reminded people to observe fire safety and keep the countryside clean during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"Visitors should not release any sky lanterns," an AFCD spokesman said.

"It is an offence under the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96) to illegally light a fire or release a sky lantern in country parks and open countryside. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and one year's imprisonment upon conviction."

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community, the spokesman also appealed to the public to avoid visiting popular locations in the countryside or participating in meal gatherings in crowded places during the peak period on the day of the Mid-Autumn Festival. The public must comply with the restrictions on group gatherings under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G).

The spokesman also reminded the public that, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, country park barbecue sites and campsites are still closed. Members of the public are not allowed to carry out barbecuing and camping activities at the above mentioned sites.

â€‹The spokesman appealed to visitors to keep the countryside clean and properly dispose of used masks and waste. Anyone who commits a littering offence in a country park area is liable to a fixed penalty of \$1,500. The AFCD will step up patrols at country parks and call upon the public to comply with the regulations. Enforcement actions will be taken against offenders.