

# Public urged to observe fire safety and keep countryside clean

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (September 16) reminded the public to observe fire safety and keep the countryside clean during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"To prevent hill fires, 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."

The spokesman also reminded visitors to keep the countryside clean and properly dispose of waste. Anyone who commits a littering offence in a country park area is liable to a fixed penalty of \$3,000. The AFCD will step up patrols at country parks and take enforcement action against any irregularities concerned.