

Public urged to observe fire safety and keep countryside clean

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (September 17) reminded people to observe fire safety and keep the countryside clean during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"Visitors should not release any Hung Ming lanterns, and should be extremely careful with barbecue fires as well as candle-lit lanterns in the countryside," an AFCD spokesman said.

"It is an offence under the Forests and Countryside Ordinance to illegally light a fire or release a Hung Ming lantern in country parks and open countryside.

"Any person who contravenes the ordinance is liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and one year's imprisonment."

The spokesman also reminded visitors to keep the countryside clean. Anyone who commits a littering offence in a country park area is liable to a fixed penalty of \$1,500.