



PRESS RELEASE



Meghalaya Fire & Emergency Services Issues Summer Fire Safety Advisory for Residential and Commercial Establishments

I. FIRE SAFETY DO's & DON'Ts – RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (SUMMER SEASON)

A. DO's

- Ensure periodic inspection of household electrical wiring and appliances, especially air-conditioners, coolers, and refrigerators.
- Handle electricity carefully and ensure switch off appliances when not in use.
- Use only ISI-marked (proper rating) electrical equipment and avoid loose connections.
- Avoid continuous use of electrical appliances.
- Ensure compatible electric load for the residential unit.
- Switch off appliances when not in use, particularly during peak heat hours.
- Keep LPG cylinders in an upright position and check for leakage using soap solution.
- Keep curtains, hanging articles away from the power sockets, open flames like Diyas, candles, incense sticks, etc.
- Maintain adequate ventilation to prevent overheating.
- Keep buckets of water/sand readily available for emergency use.
- Educate all family members about fire safety practices and emergency response (Dial 101/112).
- Keep balconies, corridors, and staircases free from clutter.
- Ensure building access roads are unobstructed for fire service vehicles.

B. DON'Ts

- Do not overload electrical sockets or use multiple high-load appliances on a single extension board.
- Do not keep loose electrical wiring.
- Do not keep power drawing appliances close to each other like AC compressors, etc.
- Do not leave cooking unattended, especially during summer.
- Do not store inflammable materials (kerosene, petrol, firecrackers) inside the house.
- Do not use damaged wires, loose plugs, or substandard electrical fittings.
- Do not block exits or staircases with furniture or storage.
- Do not place electrical appliances near curtains or combustible materials.
- Do not charge devices overnight unattended.

- Do not burn waste within residential premises.
- Do not keep LPG cylinders in confined or poorly ventilated spaces.
- Do not discard lit cigarettes, candles, kerosene lamp carelessly – they can ignite dangerous fires.

C. Special Summer Advisory

- Increased use of cooling devices may lead to overheating—ensure proper wiring and load distribution.
- Avoid temporary or makeshift electrical connections.
- Check inverter/battery systems for overheating and proper ventilation.

II. FIRE SAFETY DO'S & DON'Ts – COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS (SUMMER SEASON)

(Offices, Shops, Markets, Malls, Institutions, etc.)

A. DO'S

- Ensure strict compliance with fire safety norms as per local fire authority regulations.
- Install and maintain fire protection systems (fire extinguishers, hydrants, sprinklers, alarm systems) as per local authority regulation.
- Conduct periodic fire safety and electrical audit/inspections.
- Train employees in fire prevention, evacuation procedures, and use of firefighting equipment.
- Maintain clear, illuminated, and properly marked emergency exits.
- Ensure proper housekeeping to avoid accumulation of combustible waste.
- Provide adequate ventilation and fire protection systems for electrical panels, server rooms, and DG sets.
- Keep emergency contact numbers displayed prominently.
- Maintain dedicated fire water storage and ensure accessibility.
- Conduct mock drills at least twice in a year.

B. DON'Ts

- Do not block emergency exits, staircases, or fire access routes.
- Do not store flammable goods beyond permissible limits or in unauthorized areas.
- Do not operate without functional fire detection and suppression systems.
- Do not overload electrical circuits or use temporary wiring.
- Do not ignore sparks, short circuits, or overheating of equipment.
- Do not allow unauthorized structural changes affecting fire safety.
- Do not disable fire protection systems like fire alarms or sprinkler, hydrant systems.
- Do not stack goods near electrical panels or escape routes.

C. Special Summer Advisory

- Increased electrical load due to cooling systems requires load balancing and monitoring.
- Ensure transformers, DG sets, and HVAC systems are regularly serviced.
- Increase frequency of inspection during peak summer months.
- Do not discard lit cigarettes carelessly – they can ignite dangerous fires.
- Pay special attention to high-risk areas such as kitchens, storage rooms, and server rooms.