



This e-advisory is jointly issued by the National Environment Agency, Religious Federations, Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circle (IRCC) and Municipal Services Office.

Dear Temple Management,

Sharing of Good Joss Paper and Incense Sticks/ Candles Burning Practices Adopted by Temples

During festive periods such as the Chinese New Year, Qing Ming and Lunar 7th month, there tends to be an increase in burning of offerings by devotees at temples, which often exacerbates the fly-ash and smoke nuisance to residents in the vicinity. In the spirit of good neighbourliness, temple management may wish to consider adopting the following measures to alleviate smoke and fly-ash issues.

- 1. Reduce burning of joss paper and incense sticks/candles during festive period**
 - Encourage devotees to burn joss paper in small quantities.
 - Encourage devotees to avoid burning of bulky offerings. For example, paper boxes larger than 55cm x 40cm.
 - Encourage devotees to use offerings such as fruits, flowers and food instead of joss paper and incense sticks/candles.
 - Use one incense stick instead of three incense sticks.
 - Encourage devotees to show devotion by donating money or food to the poor instead of burning offerings.
- 2. Please note that burning of incense sticks/candles of the following sizes are not allowed under the Environmental Public Health (Burning of Joss Sticks and Candles) Regulations**
 - Incense stick exceeding 200cm in height with diameter exceeding 7.5cm.
 - Candle exceeding 60cm in height.
- 3. Allow burning of joss paper during fixed time periods**
 - Fix time periods for burning of joss paper. For example, burning is only allowed from xxxx hours to xxxx hours in the afternoon. This exact timing (of a few hours a day) is up to your discretion.
 - Inform residents on these time periods when burning will take place so that they could make the necessary alternative arrangements.
- 4. Temporary shut down of temple burner(s) near residential estate during festive period**
 - Temples with multiple burners to shut down burner(s) located nearer to residential units or to relocate the burner(s) away from the residential units (where possible).
- 5. Adoption (or modification) of burners with reduced smoke and fly-ash capability**
 - Consider adopting eco burners instead of utilising traditional furnace burners.



- For burning furnace, temple management could install a proper exhaust system suction pump, water curtain and water sprinklers to reduce smoke and fly-ash issues.

6. Outreach to devotees and nearby residents

- Send out letters to nearby residents to inform them of the above measures adopted and to seek their understanding on the religious practices during festive periods.
- Pay house visits to affected units to address their concerns, seek understanding on the religious practices and share best practices adopted.
- Distribute flyers or advisory letters to devotees prior to festive periods to encourage good practices of joss paper and incense sticks/candles burning.

The above-mentioned best practices are for your consideration where feasible, please. We look forward to your management's support in inculcating responsible joss paper and incense sticks/candles burning practices amongst devotees. Thank you.