

SURREY KHALSA DAY PARADE

THE ANNUAL SURREY VAISAKHI PARADE RETURNS THIS SPRING 2019

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2019

SURREY, BC – The annual Vaisakhi Parade, taking place on **April 20, 2019 in Surrey, British Columbia**, will once again host a joyous and celebratory event to mark the most important time in the Sikh calendar, the celebration of the harvest and the birth of the Khalsa. This year's celebration is deemed as one of the largest of its kind in the world and is expected to draw a record-breaking crowd of more than 500,000 people. The community event is free and invites everyone to enjoy one of the most important elements of the annual festival, the delicious foods of India.

In celebration of the Parade, hundreds of local businesses and individual families will offer free food to the public. Organizers of the event, the Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar, along with a number of supporting agencies including Fraser Health, the Surrey RCMP, the City of Surrey (including City of Surrey Bylaws office) are reminding businesses and individuals participating in the Parade-route kiosks and stands to observe the following:

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1) Propane Requirements

Installation of cylinders (when in use)

- Installed outside of buildings (this includes tents)
- Located no less than 3ft from building openings, 10 ft. horizontally from any building mechanical air intakes and 10 ft. horizontally any source of ignition
- Placed so they do not block any entrances or exits, and so the propane hose is not a tripping hazard
- Placed so relief valves are pointed away from the public or sources of ignition
- Installed upright on a firm level base. Tall cylinders must be secured upright, and smaller cylinders must be placed in milk crates

Storage of cylinders (when not in use)

- All of the above items also apply to the storage of cylinders, but stored cylinders must also be stored secured upright with their outlets capped

Propane regulator installation

- High pressure regulators may only be used with equipment certified for use with high pressure propane

- Regulators must be installed above the liquid level of the tank
- Installed 3ft from building openings

Propane Hoses

- Only manufactured certified hoses may be used with propane (NO barbed fittings or hose clamps)
- Hoses must be protected from strain and damage
- If a propane hose is damaged, it must be removed from service

Equipment

All gas-fired equipment must bear a seal of approved certification mark for use in Canada. You can find a list of these marks here: <https://www.technicalsaftybc.ca/alerts/approved-certification-marks-gas-appliances>

Appliances must be certified in accordance with their manufacturer's instructions

Any food trucks, carts, etc. must bear an acceptable certification from either technical safety BC or an approved certification agency

Any hazardous propane situations

- Overloaded propane cylinders that are freezing up: This is a dangerous situation where the appliance is drawing off more propane vapor than the tank can supply. If this is occurring, a larger cylinder must be used, Cylinders ARE NOT to be heated by any means.
 - Propane leaks: people using propane equipment must check for leaks when connecting equipment to cylinders
 - Liquid service valves used for vapor service equipment. Propane cooking equipment should only ever be connected to a vapor service valve, any equipment connected to a liquid service valve will be shut down.
 - Any field modified equipment will be removed from service
- 2) Check the Surrey Vaisakhi Parade website (www.surreyvaisakhiparade.com) for information on safe food handling and to download the Temporary Food Permit that must be completed prior to the event in order to serve food at the event.
 - 3) **NOTE: Anyone wishing to serve food must have a temporary hand washing area next to the food preparation area; wear gloves for all food preparation and serving; wash their hands prior to food preparation and service; keep hot food such as rice and sauces heated to a minimum of 60 degrees Celsius at all times; keep cold food cooled to 4 degrees Celsius or below at all times; have a sanitation solution at food preparation and serving locations; sanitize food cutting and preparation locations. For a full list of Do's and Don'ts visit the website.**
 - 4) Due to a potential disruption to the airspace caused by a large number of balloons being released accidentally, all participants are asked to respect an absolutely **"NO HELIUM BALLOON"** policy. There is a serious safety concern for air traffic due to large numbers floating into the air traffic space above the Parade route. We are asking for corporate and individual support in respecting the 'no helium balloons' policy on parade day.

- 5) Anyone setting up a food stand at this year's event are asked to ensure that all tents are **NOT** set up on the sidewalks alongside the route. This causes a significant public hazard.
- 6) Drone policy. Organizers of the Surrey Vaisakhi Parade remind attendees that drones are not permitted without a permit from Transport Canada. As the parade route is within 3 kilometres of Surrey Memorial Hospital's emergency helipad landing site, we ask drone operators to ensure they have proper clearance.

For more information about the event including the parade route visit: www.surreyvaisakhiparade.com. To arrange an on-site interview on the day of the event, please refer to media contact below.

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