

**FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT AS SAVIOUR OF THE
NATION**

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَ أُوصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this world and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In conjunction with the celebration of World Firefighters Day, let us recall and appreciate the services and deeds rendered to us by the firefighters who saved thousands of lives during natural disasters, emergencies and outbreaks of fires.

According to statistics in 2016, a total of 90,277 emergency calls were attended by the Fire Department of which 49,875 were for fire outbreaks and 40,402 were for rescue. On average, a total of 247 emergency calls or 10 emergency calls per hour were received every day across the country.

There is an increase of 11.75% compared to 2015 which has a total of 82,600 calls. In the last 5 years from 2011 to 2015, emergency calls showed an increasing trend. This situation is very worrying and must be taken seriously by all levels of society.

We must always be alert and vigilant in preventing fire occurrences and ensuring safety at all times. For example, we must ensure that the iron grills that we place in our homes do not become fire traps. Likewise, fire extinguishers should be made available in our homes as a safety measure against fire outbreaks. The installation of fire alarms is important in order to detect fire outbreaks early.

Let us participate in programs held by the Community Firefighting team, Voluntary Firefighting Team and Auxiliary Firefighting Team to assist the Fire Department in the prevention of fire and early intervention of emergencies. Indirectly the public will be trained in firefighting and know basic firefighting and rescue procedures.

Being united in building and maintaining prosperity and security are demanded in our lives. We have experienced and seen the difficulties and trauma that our citizens and those of other countries that were hit by natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, fires, landslides, etc went through and these disasters had claimed many lives and involved substantial losses. All these disasters, is Allah the Almighty's test of our faith and especially those of rescue teams such as the Fire and Rescue Department, Army, Police and other agencies. It is a test of our endurance and how prepared we are in facing these situations. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 9 (surah al-Taubah) verse 126:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

أَوَلَا يَرَوْنَ أَنَّهُمْ يُفْتَنُونَ فِي كُلِّ عَامٍ مَرَّةً أَوْ مَرَّتَيْنِ ثُمَّ لَا يَتُوبُونَ وَلَا هُمْ

يَذْكُرُونَ

Which means: *Do they not see that they are tried every year once or twice but then they do not repent nor do they remember?*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Firefighters sacrifice their safety to extinguish fires and attend to emergency situations. At times when occupants of buildings rush out to save their lives, firefighters rush in to put out the fire and to save anyone trapped in the building. In fact, some firefighters perish in the rubble of buildings, explosions and other dangers. The readiness of these firefighters at all times is to ensure the welfare and safety of people and to protect properties from destruction by fire or disaster.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Together we must fulfill our responsibility of taking care of and monitoring public facilities including fire hydrants and fire safety equipment. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 7(surah al-A'raf) verse 56:

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ

مِّنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٥٦﴾

Which means: *And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. And invoke Him in fear and aspiration. Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good.*

We must avoid making false emergency calls. Bear in mind that the phone number 999 is entirely for emergency calls only. It must be used only for emergencies. Let us educate ourselves and create awareness among family members, friends and communities that this emergency line should not be misused.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In conjunction with this year's celebration of Firefighters Day, let us express our gratitude to Allah the Almighty and pray for our wellbeing as well as for those who are responsible for protecting our welfare, security and prosperity. Let us be among those who always work together and help each in ensuring the well-being of everyone. Hopefully, the citizens and our country will live in harmony and receive continuous blessings from the Almighty.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 6 (surah al_an'am) verse 160:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ عَشْرُ ^طأَمْثَالِهَا وَمَنْ جَاءَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ فَلَا يُجْزَىٰ إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ



Which means: *Whoever comes [on the Day of Judgement] with a good deed will have ten times the like thereof [to his credit], and whoever comes with an evil deed will not be recompensed except the like thereof; and they will not be wronged.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.