



Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management
4A Orange Grove Road, Trincity, Tacarigua
Email: publicinfo.odpm@gmail.com
Website: www.odpm.gov.tt

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Saturday 22nd February, 2020

SAFETY TIPS DURING THE CARNIVAL SEASON 2020

In keeping with its commitment to reduce Trinidad and Tobago's disaster risks and build a culture of national resilience, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) wishes to advise all citizens and visitors of the following safety tips when attending functions at crowded venues:

Upon arrival at the venue:

- **Exit Signs** – Immediately identify exit signs and quickly plan an exit route so that in an emergency, you can evacuate quickly.
- **Meeting Points** – If you are with another person/other persons, pair up and agree on a meeting point preferably outside the venue, in case you become separated.
- **Accounting for a group** – Take a group photo or individual photos of everyone so that persons can remember each other's attire (people often forget such details in times of crisis). This is helpful in the event you need to identify them to authorities. Ensure that everyone has each other's cell phone numbers and share the photo(s) among attendees or even with trusted persons who are not attending the event.

In case of a stampede or a sudden mass-evacuation:

- **Moving with a crowd** – To avoid being trampled so treat the crowd like a riptide. Try to get to the edge of the crowd by moving in a perpendicular direction (at a right angle) to the general direction of travel. If you are with a group, try to hold on to each other's arms to prevent separation. If there are children with you, carry them if possible. Keep thinking! Remember your evacuation plan and adjust it accordingly.

- **Trapped within a crowd** - If moving to the edge of the crowd also presents a challenge and you cannot escape, move with the crowd's momentum in the direction of the exit point(s). Try to remain upright and look out for persons who may be on the ground. Also consider weighing the risks of staying in place until the crowd thins out while scanning around you for other less congested exit points.
- **Falling while in a crowd** - If you fall and the crowd is surging over you, curl into a ball to protect your internal organs. Public safety officials recommend placing your hands behind your neck to protect your cervical spine from injury.
- **Escaping Injury** - If you cannot escape the crowd, then escape injury. If possible, find a sturdy place to crouch and protect yourself. If you cannot identify a safe location, do what you can to shield yourself from injury. This can include curling into a ball, as mentioned above.

The ODPM remains committed to ensuring the safety of all citizens and building a culture of national resilience. We wish to remind you to take all precautions to preserve life, limb and property. Should you experience any emergencies, do remember to call the following hotline numbers - T&T Police Service: **999**; T&T Fire Service: **990**; the Ambulance Service: **811**; ODPM: **511/ 800-ODPM**; and the Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): 211.

For additional safety tips and information, please visit our website at www.odpm.gov.tt.

The ODPM wishes you a safe and enjoyable Carnival 2020.

ENDS

Issued by:

*Public Information, Education and Community Outreach Unit
publicinfo.odpm@gmail.com*

For further information, please Call:

ODPM's Customer Call Centre 800-ODPM/ TEMA's Hotline 211