



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### WRITTEN RESPONSE TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES IN PLACE TO REGULATE THE USE OF FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

- 1. Although there are existing studies in the international arena, the Committee recommends that the MoH collaborate with the EMA, the University of the West Indies and any other competent entity with a view to undertaking a holistic study of the potential and actual health risks associated with the use of fireworks in Trinidad and Tobago.**

The Ministry of Health supports the recommendation that a holistic study of the potential and actual risks associated with the use of fireworks be conducted in Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Health is willing to lead with the development of a technical working group that will plan and maintain oversight of this research project. This group should be formalized by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 2019 fiscal year. The following stakeholders of the technical working group may include:

- Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association;
  - The Pan American Health Organization;
  - The Caribbean Public Health Agency;
  - The University of the West Indies including: the Faculties of Medical Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities and Education (Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies);
  - The Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs;
  - The Environmental Management Authority;
  - The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Arts;
  - The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services; and
  - Civil Society and the Private Sector.
- 2. The Committee recommends as an immediate measure that the MoH consult medical specialists on the adverse health effects of fireworks on the differently-abled and geriatric population and that a public advisory be release for the edification and sensitization of the public.**

Based on the recommendation of the above proposed technical working group, the Ministry of Health will then formulate an appropriate public advisory on the adverse health effects of fireworks on the differently-abled and geriatric population.

**3. The Injury Surveillance System which was piloted at the SFGH be configured to capture data concerning injuries sustained by patients caused by the discharge of incendiary devices**

The Injury Surveillance System is currently being configured to capture data concerning injuries sustained by patients caused by the discharge of incendiary devices and this will become fully operational by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 2019 fiscal year.