

Since Hajj is approaching and some of the PSO family members would also be offering the rituals, in this aspect following safety guidelines are given below:

Tips for Productive Hajj Gear:

- Wear comfortable Ihram, and select comfortable footwear
- Keep a spare Ihram while in Mina in case it gets dirty
- Carry dust mask from protecting allergies
- Keep phones which have longer battery life
- Do not use any fire or electrical appliance which can cause Fire & Safety hazard
- Get good sleep right from the beginning to keep your energy level up till the end as Immigration process can be a tough exercise
- Be as fit as possible by starting light exercise walk (The Sooner the better)

Focus:

- One should never bend down to pick anything while moving in a crowd
- Stick together as a group
- Plan to have a fixed meeting place and time in case someone gets lost
- Cross the roads carefully since vehicles are left hand drive in Saudi Arabia
- To fill "A'abe - Zamzam", one should be very careful about the timing and don't forget to carry trolleys for carrying "A'abe - Zamzam cans" to avoid backache & slip / trip incident

In Mina, Arafah, and Muzdalifah:

- Avoid the rush and save your time by scheduling ablution trips in Makkah, Mina, Arafah, and Muzdalifah between 1.5 to 2 hours before the prayer as these are the quietest time
- Make sure to leave your ego or temper at home before you travel to Hajj
- Remind yourself that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity so try to make the most out of it.
- Leave early morning towards Arafah on the day of Arafah; better walk than take a bus

Courtesy: Atif Hasan Siddiqui (DGM – Aviation & Marine)