



Midlothian Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

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Fire Chief

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July Fire Safety / Information

Kids splashing in the water, hotdogs sizzling on the grill, fireworks clapping loudly above, and crowds saying “oooh and aww” as they watch the display – all wonderful sounds of the Fourth of July.

In preparation for the holiday this week and continuing with the *Summer Safety Series*, Lifeguard Ambulance Service would like to provide some safety tips to remember during the Independence Day celebrations, many of which are applicable throughout the summer, too.

Grill and Food Tips:

- Never leave a lit or hot grill unattended
- Designate a “grill master” to assure children and pets stay away from the flames or hot grill
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby
- Do not use a grill under porches/overhangs or too close to any structure
- Cover food to protect it from insects outdoors
- Cut up hotdogs, grapes, and other foods that may be choking hazards for children
- Take steps to keep food at picnics and barbeques at proper temperatures to avoid foodborne bacteria (www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm109899.htm)
- Keep cold foods cold AND hot foods hot

Outdoor Adventures:

- Apply and reapply bug spray and sunscreen (with appropriate SPF)
- Prepare for the weather and avoid being outdoors during high heat indexes or storms
- Wear other protective apparel for the activity, such as bicycle helmets, hats, sunglasses, appropriate footwear, safety vests, life vests, etc.
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated
- **Never** leave children alone or unattended while near a pool or open body of water; always have a responsible and sober adult as the “designated, water watcher”
- Always wear life vests when boating and jet skiing
- Children and inexperienced swimmers should wear life vests while around pools, rivers, lakes, or other open bodies of water, too
- Teach children basic water safety tips
- If a child is missing near a pool or body of water, **ALWAYS** check the water first
- Use caution around bonfires, fire pits, or sparklers
- Check outdoor toys, seats, and equipment for snakes and other critters hiding in this heat
- Test the temperature of playground equipment before children play



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- Check for bees and wasps (and nests) in playground equipment, especially if child has known allergy

Firework Fun:

- First and foremost, OBEY all state and local laws/ordinances as it relates to approved fireworks
- Read the safety and performance descriptions before igniting fireworks
- Assign a responsible and sober adult to supervise all firework activities; do not give fireworks to children
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks
- Use fireworks OUTDOORS and away from structures and vehicles
- Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby
- Do NOT experiment with homemade fireworks
- Pets and fireworks do NOT mix: - Do not bring pets to watch fireworks; they won't enjoy it - If fireworks are used near your home, bring pets inside to a safe, interior room to avoid exposure to the sounds, which may scare them - Make sure your pets have an identification tag and collar in case they run off or get out during these events
- Check out more safety tips from the National Council on Fireworks Safety
www.fireworkssafety.org

By following these simple tips and putting in the time to create a safe environment, you'll be able to sit back and enjoy the pleasant summer weather.

Holidays to Celebrate

Independence Day - (colloquially the Fourth of July) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

As always, if you have any questions about fire safety or fire prevention, you can always call the Midlothian Fire Department at (708) 489-4742. We are always happy to help! (Call for Fire Prevention Tips.)

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