



Midlothian Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

Stephen Hotwagner

Fire Chief

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Fire Prevention Officer

August Fire Safety / Information

As summer draws to a close, it's time to head back to school, meet new friends and say hello to fall. Just like teachers, books, and homework go together with the new school year, safety education should be a priority for every family.

E.S.C.A.P.E. Fire & Safety offers these tips to play it safe!

Bus Safety

- While waiting for the bus, take five giant steps back from the curb until the bus has stopped completely.
- Inside the bus, stay seated at all times. Keep your arms, hands and head inside the bus.
- Never throw anything about of the bus window.
- Always hold on the bus handrails when you are getting on or off the bus so you don't fall.
- Be careful that clothing, book bags, and key rings don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
- When exiting the bus, go to the closest sidewalk or side of the road and take five giant steps away from the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. If you bend over to pick it up, the bus driver may not be able to see you.

Safe walking

- Safely Walking to School Children under age 10 should never cross a street without a grown-up.
- Choose a safe route to school. Look for the most direct route with the fewest street crossings.
- When crossing the street, stop at the curb or edge of the road.
- Look left, then right, then left again for moving cars before crossing.
- Keep looking left and right until you are safely across the street - and remember to walk, not run.
- Follow all traffic signals and markings.

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



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

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.

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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