



SAFETY MOMENT - 4TH OF JULY SAFETY

The Fourth of July is just ahead, a time when people typically enjoy the summer holiday with backyard barbecues, fireworks or water fun. This year, celebrating Independence Day will be different due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, however below you'll find safety tips for your friends and family to have a safe and memorable holiday.

COVID-19 Pandemic Tips

- ❖ If your community is reopening, know which precautions to take in public settings.
- ❖ Continue to social distance by staying 6 feet away from others, especially those at high risk for serious illness (over age 65 or any age with [underlying medical conditions](#)).
- ❖ Continue to wear [cloth face coverings](#) in public. Face coverings are essential when social distancing is difficult.
- ❖ Follow guidelines for your area on how large gatherings can be or avoid crowds and mass gatherings.
- ❖ Clean and disinfect [frequently touched surfaces](#) daily.
- ❖ Stay home if you are sick.

Sparkler and Fireworks Safety

More than 50,000 fires are caused by fireworks every year. Take the proper precautions when operating fireworks.

- ❖ Never disassemble or try to make your own fireworks.
- ❖ Don't point sparklers, or fireworks at yourself or others, especially while they're being lit.
- ❖ Only light fireworks on the ground that are fire resistant; avoid areas that are dry.
- ❖ Don't attempt to light multiple devices at the same time.
- ❖ Never allow young children to handle fireworks or sparklers.
- ❖ Keep a portable fire extinguisher close by or keep a water hose or buckets of water nearby to put out fires.
- ❖ If fireworks malfunction, don't relight them! Douse and soak them with water then [throw them away](#).
- ❖ Resist the urge to bring your pet to a fireworks display. The [safest place](#) for them is at home where it's familiar, quiet and not crowded.

Water Activity Safety

As July is one of the hottest months of the year, many families turn to water activities to beat the heat. However, even fun water activities have serious risks if the proper precautions aren't taken.

- ❖ Review safe boating practices.
- ❖ Never consume alcohol while driving a boat.
- ❖ Before boating, always check that there are enough life preservers on hand for every passenger.
- ❖ Set water safety rules for your family.
- ❖ Pools should be enclosed completely with a fence to restrict access to the area.
- ❖ Keep a first aid kit near the pool.

Grilling Safety

July is one of the peak months for grilling fires. Enjoy grilling your favorite meals this summer while also keeping your family safe.

- ❖ Check gas grill hoses for cracks, holes and leaks.
- ❖ Keep children away from grills. Gas leaks, blocked tubes, and propane tanks can be a cause of grill fires and explosions.
- ❖ Never grill indoors, in the garage, in any enclosed area or on a surface that might catch fire.
- ❖ Keep the grill at least two feet away from decks, siding, branches and any outdoor equipment that can catch fire quickly.
- ❖ Bacteria thrives in temperatures from 40 to 140 degrees, according to the [United States Department of Agriculture](#), so keep hot food on the grill and cold food in a cooler. After two hours, it's time to toss perishable food (though it only takes one hour if the temperature is greater than 90 degrees).