

How to have hot fun in the summertime without getting burned!

Summer is a time for campfires, barbeques, and fireworks but these fun activities also present a number of fire safety hazards. Every season brings its own safety hazards and summer is no exception. Besides the associated risks with these fun activities, there are also risks due to air conditioners, electrical appliances and gasoline that we use for mowers and other lawn equipment. Fortunately there are ways to protect yourself and your loved ones. So spring into summer by taking the following precautions; (for a full listing of precautions please go to one of the many websites by fire safety agencies such as the National Fire Protection Association, United States Fire Administration, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, or the Fort Wayne Fire Department).

Fireworks Safety

- The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit one of the many public fireworks displays around the area put on by professionals.
- Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, directions, and a warning label, do not light it
- Please remember to be considerate of your neighbors and their property
- Please remember that sudden, loud explosive noises, flashes of light and the smell of powder may trigger unwanted memories for some. "Please be courteous with fireworks."
- Never let children handle, play with, or light any fireworks
- If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal in your area.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from the reach of children
- When setting off fireworks wear eye and hand protection to avoid burns
- Use in a clear open level area and keep your audience a safe distance away from the shooting site.
- Do not alter fireworks device or make your own fireworks
- Light only one firework at a time
- Never attempt to re-light, alter or fix any "dud" firework item
- Remember to use care with fireworks in the vicinity of your launch area zone. Sparks from active fireworks may ignite idle fireworks and cause injury.
- Fireworks awaiting use should be kept in a closed container to prevent falling sparks from inadvertently igniting them
- Have a fire extinguisher, water supply, hose, or bucket of water nearby
- Know how to properly use a fire extinguisher
- Please remember to be considerate of your pets as fireworks can cause them a great deal of stress

- Soak your used fireworks in water before properly disposing of them

Grilling/Barbeques

- Never grill or BBQ in enclosed areas as carbon monoxide could be produced
- Position grills well away from siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking
- Use long handled grilling tools to give plenty of clearance from heat and flames
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup
- If using propane, check all the connections and hoses for leaks before using the grill
- If using a gas grill please follow all manufactures' instructions

- If using charcoal grills please follow all recommended manufactures' instructions
- If using charcoal grills, purchase the proper starter fluid and store it out of the reach of children
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal lighter fluid
- Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure the fire is out. Never place them in a combustible container

Recreational Campfires

- Campfires shall be no greater than 36 inches in diameter and a fuel load not to exceed 24 inches in height
- A garden hose connected to a water supply, buckets, shovel, fire extinguisher or other approved fire extinguishing equipment shall be readily available at the burn site
- Only wood shall be burned - no leaves, paper or trash
- Never leave campfires unattended
- The fire shall be at least 25 feet away from any structure, fence, or right of way
- If the burning creates a smoke nuisance, or a hazardous condition exists, the burning shall be extinguished
- Keep campfires away from dry grass and leaves
- Always properly extinguish before leaving the area

Remember to maintain those lawnmowers and to never refuel a hot mower.

These are just a few items to remember to have a safe summer. For more safety tips and precautions please go to one of the many websites by agencies such as the National Fire Protection Association, United States Fire Administration, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, or the Fort Wayne Fire Department.