

Weekly Safety Tip

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY



Fireworks: Every year there are more than 9,000 fireworks related injuries treated in emergency facilities. Even simple fireworks such as sparklers burn at around 1800° F and that causes many injuries especially to youngsters. Fireworks are dangerous and best left to the professionals who will put on a display that is far superior to anything individuals could hope to achieve. The best way, and safest way, to enjoy fireworks is to find a good vantage point for a public display and to just sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.

Grilling: Over 16,000 persons each year go to the emergency room for injuries involving grills. Grilling also contributes to 8,500 home and structural fires each year resulting in \$75 million in property damage. Inspect the hose and gas connections on the grill before each use and provide periodic maintenance as required. Establish a safe zone around your grill and keep away from houses and wooden decks and have a fire extinguisher or water hose near by.

Campfires: Build campfires where they will not spread and keep the fire small and manageable. Fires should be 15' away from combustible materials including tents and camping gear. Have water and shovel ready to douse the fire when finished. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave. [Smokey the Bear](#) says "Only you can prevent wildfires".

First Aid for Burns:

- + Cool the burn with cool running water. Do this for 10 – 15 minutes or until the pain subsides as that will help to reduce the swelling and risk of scarring. Do not use ice or high pressure water.
- + Cover the burn loosely with a sterile gauze bandage to protect the skin and keep air from reaching the burn area.
- + Minor burns can be treated with a topical ointment or spray to reduce the pain. Over the counter pain relievers can be used for minor burns.
- + Call 911 or seek professional medical treatment for children and serious injuries where there is charred or blackened skin or blisters.

For more information check out these sites:

[FEMA Fire Safety Poster](#)
[Summer Fire Safety](#)