

## Summer Fire Safety!



Summer - Time to be outside. Cookouts, Fire pits, Grills... Most of us love the smell of grilling burgers. And an open fire pit at night is perfect for social entertaining.

### Cookouts and Grills

Make sure your grills are **working properly**. Gas grills, check the tank and hose. If you detect ANY gas leaks DO NOT use the grill. Have it professionally serviced. Do not leave the grill on while not in use.

Use the **correct starters** for the fuel you have. NEVER use gasoline to start charcoal.

Never leave your cooking food **unattended**.

Turn everything **off** when you're not cooking.

Keep your grill at least **3 feet away** from anything that can burn. Think about the deck railing or overhanging tree branches. Also move it out of the way of any activity: games, traffic, etc.

Do not place hot charcoal in plastic containers. Dispose of them in **metal containers**.

Keep **children and pets away** from the grill. Make sure they understand grill safety.

Use your grills **outside ONLY**. Do not grill indoors.

If your grill is portable, place it on a solid, **non-flammable surface**.

**Clean** your grill often to eliminate a grease buildup.

Source: [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org), [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov), [bobvilla.com](http://bobvilla.com), [thehartford.com](http://thehartford.com)

## Fire pits and Bonfires

Have **water readily available** - just in case. Hose, bucket, or some dirt/sand. Another option is a fire extinguisher. Make sure you have the correct type of fire extinguisher for the fuel.

If you use your fire pit often, consider investing in a **fire blanket** you can use to smother the fire if it gets out of hand.

Make sure the fire is **completely out** and cool before leaving.

Open fires should be at least **25 feet away** from anything that might burn; deck, buildings, etc. Clear the area of dried leaves/brush and check for overhanging tree branches. Branches should be a minimum of 12 feet.

Use an appropriate **screen** to contain sparks and embers.

Make sure your **chairs are far enough away**. We all want to be close to the fire pit, but we need to be safe as well.

**Never use gasoline** to start your open fire.

Check the weather for **wind conditions**. Watch for embers floating out of the fire. Always heed and "no burn" alerts or outdoor burning laws for your area.

Don't use **construction lumber** and scraps as fuel. That material is usually chemically treated and may emit toxic fumes. Use branches, tree limbs, wood you've purchased for this type of fire.

If your fire pit is portable, make sure to place it on a **solid non-flammable surface**.

Source: [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org), [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov), [bobvila.com](http://bobvila.com), [thehartford.com](http://thehartford.com)

## Fireworks

Never allow **young children** to handle fireworks. Supervise older children.

Fireworks do not go well with **drugs or alcohol**.

Use **protective eye wear** and never hold lit fireworks in your hand.

Use fireworks **outside** only.

Use/shoot fireworks away from people, animals, buildings, etc. **The open sky** is the only place for fireworks.

Light **one device** at a time. Then move away to a safe distance.

**Soak** spent and used fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.

Keep **water readily available** just in case.

**Sparklers** burn at approximately 2,000 degrees! That can melt some metals - imagine what it can do to your hand and clothing.

Sources: nsc.org, cpsc.gov

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## July is National Grilling Month



Summer is the time for the best outdoor cooking, so it is no surprise July is National Grilling Month. Don't let improperly prepared food ruin your summer. [Click the link](#) for grilling tips keep you grilling and enjoying the beautiful weather all season long.

Source: [nationaldaycalendar.com/national-grilling-month-july](http://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-grilling-month-july)

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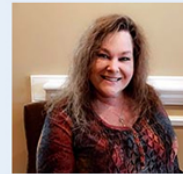
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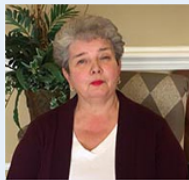
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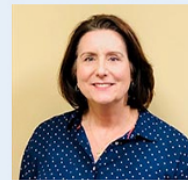
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