

KEEP SAFE FROM FIRES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Although more fire deaths occur during the winter months, [John Reich, Deputy Director of Fire and Life Safety](#) urges [South Carolinians](#) to be aware that many outdoor summer activities carry potential fire hazards. The National Association of State Fire Marshal's join in [South Carolina's](#) efforts to keep "safe" from fires and burns and recommends the following tips:

Barbecue Safety

Latest statistics from NFPA reflects that in 2002, gas and charcoal grills caused 900 structure fires and 3,500 outdoor fires in or on home properties, resulting in a combined direct property loss of \$30 million.

- When using barbecue grills on decks or patios, be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves.
- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use.
- Keep children and pets far away from grills.
- With charcoal grills, only use charcoal starter fluids designed for barbecue grills and do not add fluid after coals have been lit.
- With gas grills, be sure that the hose connection is tight and check hoses carefully for leaks. Applying soapy water to the hoses will easily and safely reveal any leaks.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and have the grill repaired by a professional, if necessary.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that before purchasing a grill or container, that it bare the mark of a nationally-recognized testing laboratory.

Camping safety

- Always use a flame retardant tent and set up camp far away from the campfire.
- Only use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns inside the tent or any other closed space, not liquid-filled heaters or lanterns.
- Always build your campfire down wind away from your tent. Clear all vegetation and dig a pit surrounded by rocks before building your campfire.
- Store liquid fire starter (not gasoline) away from your tent and campfire and only use dry kindling to freshen a campfire.
- Always put out a campfire when going to sleep or leaving the campsite. To extinguish the fire, cover with dirt or pour water over it

Fireworks

Fireworks lead to thousands of injuries requiring emergency room treatment, according to NFPA. These dazzling, but dangerous devices can burn up to 1200 F and can cause burns, lacerations, amputations and blindness. "The safest way to enjoy fireworks is by attending a public fireworks display," said [John Reich, Deputy Director for LLR's Division of Fire and Life Safety](#). If you plan to use consumer fireworks, the Office of State Fire Marshal, [the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs](#), and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission join in advising you to follow the following safety tips to help reduce the chances of a destructive fire and/or injury:

- Read and follow the directions on fireworks packages.
- Make sure adults supervise all use of fireworks. Young children should not play with fireworks. Even sparklers can cause a serious burn injury.
- Do not point or throw fireworks at people.

- Use fireworks in an open area away from dry grass and other flammable materials. Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies.
- Light fireworks one at a time. Do not try to re-ignite fireworks. Soak fireworks that did not ignite with water. Do not attempt to repair broken fireworks.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place. Keep fireworks out of your pockets.

“Summer is often a time when children are left alone, or have limited adult supervision providing an even greater potential for fire and injury. Parents are urged to make sure children know how to call their emergency services number to report a fire or injury, to never touch matches and lighters, and to get out, and stay out if their home does catch fire.” adds Reich.