



FIRE PREVENTION and LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION E-BULLETIN

July / August 2013

FIREWORKS SAFETY



- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.

POOL/WATER SAFETY

Block

- Make sure your pool or spa has an effective barrier, such as a fence to help guard against unauthorized access.
- Your pool or spa should have a barrier regardless of whether they are covered.
- Door and windows leading to the pool areas should be locked.
- Fence gates should have self-closing, self-latching mechanisms. Latches need to be out of reach of young children.

Learn

- Learn how to administer CPR, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and other lifesaving techniques. To administer CPR correctly you must be properly trained.
- Know how to contact your local emergency medical services. Install a phone or keep a cordless phone in the pool or spa area. Post the emergency number in an easy to see place.
- Learn to swim and teach age appropriate children to swim.

Other Pool Safety Tips

- Do not allow children to play in or around the pool area.
- Mount life saving devices near the pool.
- Keep tables, chairs, and ladders away from pool fences.
- Check placement of doggie doors for direct access to pool area.
- Post your local emergency number on the phone. Think about installing a phone near the pool area.

If you find a child in any source of water...

- Yell for help and pull the child out of the water.
- Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number immediately!
- Begin CPR if you are trained.
- If you are not trained to administer CPR, follow the instructions from the 9-1-1 operator until help arrives.

Adult supervision is the best approach in the prevention of drowning



Outdoor Electrical Safety

Lighting to improve the look and safety of our homes, electric tools to make our outdoor work easier and power lines to our home, all need to be handled with care.

When working outside, it is important to:

- Have a professional tree cutting service trim branches that might fall on electric wiring.
- To use a wooden or fiberglass ladder outside and remember to keep the ladder at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Never touch anyone or anything that is in contact with a downed wire. Power lines may still be energized, so stay a safe distance away. Report downed power lines to the power company right away.
- When conducting outside electrical work, have a qualified electrician do all of the electrical work.
- To prevent an electrical shock, make sure all your outside electrical receptacles are ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.

When using power equipment keep these tips in mind:

- Use lighting and tools that have a UL or FM label and make sure they are made for outdoor use.
- Store your electric tools inside and keep all power tools away from children; they are not toys.
- Check lighting and extension cords for damage before using. Replace damaged ones immediately.
- Extension cords are not meant for long term use.

LAWN MOWER SAFETY

The lawn mower is one of the most dangerous tools around the home. Each year, approximately 68,000 people are treated in emergency departments for injuries caused by power mowers. More than 9,000 of the people hurt were younger than 18 years of age. Older children and adolescents were most often hurt while cutting lawns as chores or as a way to earn money. Lawn mower injuries include deep cuts, loss of fingers and toes, broken and dislocated bones, burns, eye injuries and other injuries. Both users of mowers and those who are nearby can be hurt. To prevent lawn mower injuries follow these recommendations:

- § Use a mower with a control that stops the mower from running when the handle is let go.
- § Children younger than 16 years should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers.
- § Children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers.
- § Make sure that sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) are worn while mowing.
- § Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones, toys, or sticks, by picking up these items prior to starting to cut grass. Wear eye protection while operating the lawn mower.

- § Make sure that children are indoors or at a safe distance well away from the area you plan to mow.
- § Fuel and start mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed. Mowers should be refueled with the motor turned off and when the motor has had time to cool down.
- § Make sure that blade settings are done by an adult, with the mower off and the spark plug disconnected.
- § Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing a gravel driveway.
- § Do not allow children to ride as passengers on ride-on mowers.

“Fire is Everyone’s Fight”

This is a national program designed to get every man, woman and child thinking about the importance of fire prevention. Specific objectives are to help people across the nation:

- Move from viewing home fires as unavoidable accidents to understanding they can be prevented.
- Learn the actions you can take to prevent home fires.
- Install smoke alarms and keep them in good working order.

The theme was designed to create a new social norm: fires can be prevented and we all have a role to play in ensuring that they are prevented. The theme is intended to be an easily understood and memorable phrase that encompasses a wide range of potential actions we can take to prevent fires or mitigate loss if one does occur.

When people see or hear the phrase, we would like them to think of actions they can take to make their home safe. So what can you do?

- ✓ Visit five friends or neighbors asking them to check their smoke alarms to make sure they are working.
- ✓ Share fire safety information, available at your local fire station, with family, friends, and neighbors.
- ✓ Post “*Fire is Everyone’s Fight*” in common areas, newsletters, message boards and social media.
- ✓ Property managers can include information in new lease orientation packets.
- ✓ Invite members of the fire service to speak at your business or civic meeting.
- ✓ Visit an elderly or shut-in friend and assist them with ensuring their home is fire safe.
- ✓ Ask the fire department for a free no obligation home safety survey.

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that 81 percent of all fire deaths and 76 percent of all fire injuries occur in residential properties. Many of the deaths and injuries could have been prevented. Take it personal because fire really is everyone’s fight to protect themselves, their family, and their home.

Fire Prevention and Life Safety presentations by appointment

- Tours of the fire department are given by appointment throughout the year. An average tour which includes various fire and life safety topics is approximately 45 minutes in length.
- The “Kid’s Safety House”, an interactive tool that teaches and reinforces safety topics in a classroom setting.
- Fire Prevention and Life Safety presentations available for businesses, clubs, and organizations.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please call 540-942-6730.