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July 4th Safety Tips.

FIREWORKS

- Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 16,900 outside and other fires. These fires caused an average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and an average of \$43 million in direct property damage.
- In 2017, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 12,900 people for fireworks related injuries; 54% of those injuries were to the extremities and 36% were to the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for more than one-third (36%) of the estimated 2017 injuries.
- Most of these fires and injuries occurred between the Memorial Day and Independence Day holiday weekends. Remember, fireworks can burn at over 2,000 degrees!
- NJ recent de-regulated certain “sparkling devices and novelties”. These include Sparklers, novelties, and ground based devices. The Fire Service does not support the use of any consumer fireworks – even sparklers and firecrackers. Leave it to the professionals and see some of the excellent public displays!

AERIAL CONSUMER FIREWORKS (SKY ROCKETS, BOTTLE ROCKETS, AERIALS, TUBE REPORTS, AND ROMAN CANDLES) ARE STILL PROHIBITED IN NEW JERSEY.

- These devices should only be used outdoors, away from buildings, vehicles, and anything that can burn, and under close adult supervision.
- Never give fireworks to children.
- Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby.
- Never carry fireworks in your POCKET or shoot them into METAL or GLASS containers.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.
- These devices should never be held in hand when lighting. Light the fuse and get away.
- Always follow safety instructions from the manufacturer and after use, wet down the used devices.

And let's not forget the safety of our pets!

- Don't bring your pets to a fireworks display, even a small one.
- If fireworks are being used near your home, put your pet in a safe, interior room to avoid exposure to the sound.
- Make sure your pet has an identification tag, in case it runs off during a fireworks display.
- Never shoot fireworks of any kind (consumer fireworks, sparklers, fountains, etc.) near pets.

GRILL SAFETY

- Fire Departments in the US Respond to an average of 9,000 home fires each year caused by grills. The leading causes of these fires? Failure to clean the grill of grease buildup, having the grill too close to something that could catch fire, leaving the grill unattended, and leaks from gas or propane grill hoses.
- Make sure you keep a 3-foot “safety zone” around grills and recreational fires and make sure to be at least 10-feet from buildings. This will keep kids, pets, and your home safe!
- Never store propane tanks indoors or below ground level. And never leave propane tanks unattended in your vehicle. Check fuel lines for leaks – if you smell gas or propane while grilling- shut the grill down and have it serviced before using again. If you still smell gas – call the Fire Department!
- Keep grills cleaned of grease buildup and if you have a charcoal grill, let the coals cool and dispose of them in a metal container located outside your home.