

Fourth of July Safety Tips

The 4th of July is a time when families can gather and enjoy grilling out, laughing, and brilliant fireworks. Every year, more than 7000 people are injured in 4th of July related activities. Preventing these injuries involves taking a bit more time ensuring the safety of others and understanding the simplest safety precautions are often the best advice.

1. Have safe fun. Safe fun includes planning for the best and preparing for the worst. With family, friends, and neighbors all enjoying one space, time can move quickly and decisions can be *altered by alcohol*. Designated hosts can help to ensure everyone is having a safe and fun 4th of July.
2. Children should never light fireworks. Children may seem like miniature-grown adults, but they do not have the adult responsibility that comes with growing older.
3. Keep water nearby. Fireworks can cause fire. Keeping a large tub of water or water hose nearby is crucial for fire safety during the 4th of July party
4. Review fireworks laws. Before planning any 4th of July party, call or visit the local law enforcement office and ask for a list of legal fireworks.
5. *Never drink and drive. Drinking one bottle of beer or mixed drink is enough to alter visual perception of the road and ability to make decisions. At no time should drinking and driving be considered safe. When in doubt, ask a sober friend to drive.*
6. Drive safely even if you are not the one drinking. Designated drivers are deemed the savior of any party where adult beverages are served, but not every party allots designated drivers.
9. Food borne illness can be a big concern with family and friends arriving at different times throughout the day. Cold foods should be kept cold and hot foods hot. When proper temperatures are not used, foods can quickly breed bacteria that may cause food poisoning.
10. Keep pets indoors during the hottest parts of the day. At night, pets should be secured to prevent injury from fireworks.