

FOURTH OF JULY – LAST MINUTE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Your community association may be planning an event for the fourth of July, but even if not, it's important residents know how to safely celebrate. Every year more than 50,000 fires are caused by fireworks in the U.S. and most of those occur on Independence Day. Making patterns in the dark with a sparkler and setting off the occasional big burst in the sky may be fun, but it is important to remember the safety aspect that comes with any flammable, combustible material.

KNOW THE RULES

- » Your city may have rules and regulations regarding where, what type, and when fireworks of any kind are permitted. More than that, your association may have specific rules and guidelines on what types of celebrations are permitted. If you are planning something, make sure your community isn't violating any of the rules set by the city or community association.

PAY ATTENTION

- » This might sound like something you should be doing every day, but it's especially important when fireworks are present. Here are a few good tips to making sure everyone is safe this holiday:
 - i. Dress in light-colored clothes at night to ensure you are visible to others.
 - ii. Only light fireworks on nonflammable areas, like sidewalks or gravel roads. Check to make sure that the direction of the fireworks isn't going into any trees or grassy areas.
 - iii. Have fire extinguishers, sand, or plenty of water handy.
 - iv. Have your first aid kit and burn gel ready in case of any accidents.
 - v. Don't ever point sparklers or fireworks at yourself or others.
 - vi. Supervise all children, even if they are only using sparklers.
 - vii. Use only approved legally obtained fireworks.

REMEMBER YOUR PETS

- » Our furry friends aren't always the biggest fans of the loud festivities. If you have pets, remember to keep them safely inside or at a safe distance from the fireworks, grills and pools. Also be wary of outdoor animals who may be spooked by the noises.

COOKOUT SAFELY

- » Grilling is often a big part of summer celebrations and it's important to stay safe when using any type of outdoor cooking device. Check gas and propane lines to make sure there aren't leaks, and always remember to keep grills at least two feet away from any outdoor equipment that may catch fire. If you live in a condominium association, make sure you are aware of your COA rules regarding outdoor cooking.

BE RESPECTFUL

- » Even if your association is planning an event or allows you to host your own event, remember that you have neighbors. Try to keep your noise at an acceptable level and clean up after yourself. If you are having guests, make sure they know where to park and keep them from being on others property.

