



TOOLBOX TALKS

SUPERVISOR INSTRUCTIONS:

- Use toolbox trainings to encourage safety/environmental discussions during monthly meetings with employees.
- Campus Services' employees should maintain the employee sign-in sheet in their department's safety/environmental compliance binder as a record of training. All other groups should maintain a record of training in accordance with their Division's training procedures.

July is the month for fireworks, swimming, backyard barbeques and anything red, white or blue. Whatever your plans are for the holiday, EHSO wants you and your family to enjoy your time and stay safe. Whether your plans are to celebrate in your backyard, at a park, at the beach or public pool, take the time to add safety to your plans. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind while enjoying your holiday and the rest of the month.



Fireworks Safety



There are multiple safety concerns associated with the patriotic holiday, especially with the revised version of the "American Heritage Celebration Act" that took effect July 1, 2015 in Georgia. This bill will legalize the sale of certain consumer fireworks to persons 18 years or older and allows for the discharge of fireworks between the hours of 10:00am and midnight every day. On certain holidays, however, the curfew for discharging fireworks is extended until 2:00am. Other facts include:

- Firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, sparklers and other combustibles or explosives of similar design are authorized.
- Fireworks cannot be exploded within 100 yards of a nuclear power facility or gas station, or a facility that refines, processes or blends gasoline.

However, approximately 240 people are sent to the emergency room every day during the July fourth holiday. Therefore, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public fireworks show run by professionals and stay at least 420 feet away from the display. While taking advantage of the new law and enjoying the festivities, remember to keep your family safe.

- Always have an adult supervise firework activities. This includes sparklers. Sparklers can burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees, which is as hot as a blow torch!
- Never allow children to play with, or ignite, fireworks.
- Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose close by in case of a fire or other mishap.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away; and NEVER place any part of your body directly over a firework device while lighting the fuse.
- Never relight a firework that failed to go off (also known as a dud). Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.

SAFETY/ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLBOX TALKS – INDEPENDENCE DAY SAFETY

- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place them in metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.

Grilling Safety

Follow these safety tips when grilling food for your friends and family on your gas or charcoal grill:

- Always supervise a barbeque grill when in use and keep children and pets safely away.
- Never use a grill in an enclosed area.
- Use the long-handled tools to prevent burns.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited.
- Close the cylinder valve of a propane tank when the grill is not in use.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using grills.

Pool, Lake and Beach Safety

If you and your family are planning a trip to the beach, lake, or neighborhood pool, remember these safety tips to keep everyone safe:

- Keep alert for local weather conditions and warnings.
- Swim sober and never swim alone.
- Ensure young children and inexperienced swimmers wear lifejackets when near or in the water; and ALWAYS keep a close eye on children, even if they are wearing a lifejacket.
- Follow posted safety rules at all times, including never diving into shallow water.
- If caught in a rip current while at the beach, swim with the current and parallel to the shore. Wait to swim to shore until out of the rip current or rescue arrives.
- Always wear sun protection when outdoors during the day. Make sure your sunscreen has a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 and reapply it regularly.
- Avoid heat exhaustion by staying hydrated and taking breaks in the shade.



Questions for Discussion

- 1) At what distance should one watch a public firework show?
- 2) True or False? You should NEVER grill in an enclosed area.
- 3) What will best protect children and inexperienced swimmers from drowning?

Answers: 1) 420 feet 2) True 3) Wearing a life jacket

Credits

Children on July 4th. Retrieved from:< <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th>>
Fireworks Show. Retrieved from:< <http://www.theoslotimes.com/>>
Life Jackets. Retrieved from:<amazon.com>