

Fire and Life Safety Bulletin

June 2009



June is National Fireworks Safety Month!



“Safe and sane” fireworks are neither. Fireworks and sparklers are designed to explode or throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200 degrees. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (“CPSC”), approximately 16% of all consumer fireworks injuries are caused by sparklers burning hands and legs, with the majority of sparkler injuries occurring to young children.

Characteristics of Fireworks Injuries

- **55%** of the injuries are burns, while **30%** are contusions and lacerations.
- **One-third** of the people injured by fireworks are under the age of 15.
- The risk of fireworks injury is **two-and-a-half** times as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population.
- Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone account for **28%** of emergency room fireworks injuries in 2006.



Proceed With Caution!

- Leave fireworks to the professionals; Do not use consumer fireworks.
- The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display.

Hotel Safety Tips—With summer vacation upon us, keep the following tips in mind as you travel:

- > When you make reservations, ask if the hotel has smoke detectors and automatic sprinklers.
- > Once you check-in, locate at least two exits from your floor.
- > Count the number of doors between your room and each exit in case you need to exit a smoky hallway.
- > Note the location of fire alarms, fire extinguishers and other emergency equipment.
- > Always place your room key and cell phone so you will know where they are in case of an emergency.
- > Never use the elevator as a means of escape during a fire.

Avoid Injuries and Fire While Grilling

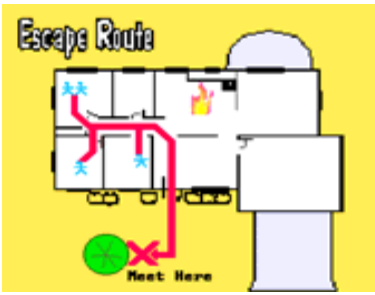


Many of us enjoy cooking on a gas or charcoal grill. Throughout the year the fire service responds to numerous fires which originated from grilling activities. Many of these incidents spread to nearby structures which sustain severe damage. Please keep these safety tips in mind so you will not suffer a devastating loss.



- * Gas or charcoal grilling must be conducted outside any structure.
- * Position the grill well away from structure siding and decks.
- * Ensure the grill and associated parts are in good working condition.
- * Test gas connections with soapy water when you make connections.
- * Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- * Declare a three foot “safe zone” around the grill to protect adults and children.
- * Use long handle grilling tools to provide clearance from heat and flames.
- * Periodically remove grease from trays below the grill.

Practice Makes Perfect!



A smoky fire in a home is scary for everyone — especially children. Smoke is thick and black. You can't see through smoke, as fire scenes on television and in the movies would have you believe. The sound of the smoke alarm in the middle of the night requires a quick and accurate response. You have about two minutes to escape safely! Children regularly practice fire drills in school, yet very few serious fires happen there. So, why not plan and practice drills in your

home? Would your children know two ways out of every room? Do they know how to open windows and screens if necessary? Does everyone in the family know where to meet once you are safely outside? If you can't answer "yes" to all of these questions, it's time to plan and practice an escape from your home with your family!

Call the Metro Richmond Fire Safety Hotline at 1-888-537-5967 for free assistance.

TRAVELING SAFELY WITH CHILDREN: *THE BASICS*

- There must be one safety belt for each person. Buckling two people, even children, into one belt could injure both.
- People who are not buckled up can be thrown from the car or around inside the car, and seriously hurt themselves or others.
- Never hold a child on your lap! You could crush him/her in a crash, or the child may be torn from your arms.
- Never ride in the cargo area of a station wagon, van, or pickup! Anyone riding in the cargo area could be thrown out and severely injured or killed.
- No one seat is 'best', The 'best' child safety seat is the one that fits your child and can be installed correctly.
- Children age 12 and under should ride properly restrained in the back seat.

If you need assistance installing your child safety seat, personnel at the following fire stations are specially trained and will be glad to see that your seat is proper installed:

- * Fire Station 17 at 2901 Bainbridge Street 646-8096
- * Fire Station 14 at 2034 Hawthorne Avenue 646-0745
- * Fire Station 19 at 311 Maple Avenue 646-1701

Be Smart Around Water

1. On the river, always wear shoes.
2. Young children should always wear life jackets.
3. If you can not swim, do not go in the water.
4. Put a fence all the way around your pool or spa.
5. Make sure your children always swim with an adult. No child should swim alone.
6. Stay within an arm's length of children in and around water. This includes the bathtub, toilet, pools and spas-even buckets of water.
7. Empty large buckets and wading pools after using them. Store them upside down when you are not using them.



Need a free smoke detector installed in your home? Call the Richmond Metro Fire Safety Hotline at 1-888-537-5967. Don't delay; your life depends on it.