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Safety Educator

There's no better way to celebrate summer than to barbecue outdoors, as long as you take special steps to keep your family safe from grilling accidents or injuries. Here are tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for safeguarding your family:

▶ Propane and Charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.

▶ Grills should be placed away from the home, deck railings, and overhanging branches.

GAS GRILL SAFETY:

- Check burner tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders or food grease, and follow these tips to reduce the risk of fire or explosion.
- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there

are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.

- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.

- Always keep propane gas containers upright.

- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.

- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.

Propane and Charcoal BBQ Grills should ONLY be used outdoors.



- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

CHARCOAL GRILL SAFETY:

Charcoal produces carbon monoxide (CO) when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. To reduce the risk of CO poisoning

follow these safety tips:

- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents or campers.

- Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.

- Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is

completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

For further details visit:

www.cpsc.gov

www.nfpa.org

Windows: Keep Bugs Out NOT Kids In.



We tend to think of children falling down the stairs, falling off playground equipment or falling off a bike or skates not falling out windows. All of

these can result in serious injuries, but window falls are especially dangerous because of the heights and hard landing surfaces. Safe Kids reports that every year in the United States, nearly 5,000 children, mostly toddlers, fall out of windows. It is extremely important to remember that a window screen is not a safety device. It is de-

signed to keep insects out, not to keep children in. Window guards, window locks or wedges or other means should be installed to keep the window from opening too much. Proper safety devices on windows save lives. As the great NH weather arrives we tend to have our windows open more frequently

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NEXT MONTH:

- Firework Safety
- Water Safety
- Summer Travel Safety
- Vehicle Safety

Lightning Safety: When Thunder Roars GO INDOORS

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember **“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.”** Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries in the US. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when lightning strikes.

OUTDOOR SAFETY:

If you hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning.

- ◆ Look for shelter inside a home, large building or a hard-topped vehicle right away and remain for 30 minutes until after the last clap of thunder.
- ◆ Do not go under tall trees for shelter.
- ◆ At a little league game? Get everyone into vehicles or the restrooms. Do NOT stay in the dugouts; they are not safe.
- ◆ At the beach? Get to your car. Do NOT seek shelter under picnic shelters.

- If you are in/on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.

- **VISIT NOAA**

- www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm#near to learn more on what you can do when there are no safe places to go.

- Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.

- If you feel your hair stand end, that means lightening is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. This is a **last resort** when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.

INDOOR SAFETY:

- ◆ Unplug appliances and other electrical items, like computers, and turn off air conditioners. If unable to unplug

them, turn them off.

- ◆ Stay away from windows and doors.
- ◆ Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing.
- ◆ Avoid washing your hands, bathing, doing laundry or washing dishes.

If struck by lightning:

Most victims can survive a lightning strike; however, medical attention may be needed immediately. Call for medical help. Victims do not carry an

electrical charge. In many cases, the victim's heart or breathing may have stopped. CPR or an AED may be needed to revive them. Continue to monitor the victim until medical help arrives. If possible, move the victim to a safer place away from the threat of another lightning strike.

Learn More:

www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/

www.nfpa.org



LIGHTNING SAFE CROUCH

Window Safety *continued...*

these few safety precautions may save your child from serious injury or death.

- ♥ CPSC recommends **against** knotting or tying the cords together on window blinds or shades because this creates a new loop in which a child could become entangled
- ♥ Keep windows closed and locked when children are around.
- ♥ Keep furniture and anything that a child can climb away from windows to reduce the chances of a child falling through a window.
- ♥ When opening a window for ventilation chose one that a child cannot reach.

- ♥ If you have windows that open from the top as well as the bottom, it is generally safer to open the top pane.

- ♥ Don't assume an unlocked, closed window is childproof.

- ♥ Set and enforce rules that your child cannot play near windows especially the activity many kids love, jumping on the bed.

- ♥ Strategic landscaping may lessen the extent of injury sustained in the event of a fall. Shrubs and soft edging such as wood chips

or grass under a window can cushion potential falls.

Finally, while you're childproofing your windows, take a moment to secure the curtain pulls or blind cords out of reach, kids have been strangled while playing with dangling cords. Install safety tassels on the ends of the curtain pulls or cut the loops so a child is less likely to get trapped.



Check your window coverings for exposed or dangling cords and retrofit or replace them with today's safer products.

www.usa.safekids.org

www.cpsc.gov

Gasoline & Propane Safety



GASOLINE:

- ◆ Keep gasoline out of children's sight and reach. Children should **never** handle gasoline.
- ◆ Do not use or store gasoline near possible ignition sources (i.e., electrical devices, oil- or gas-fired appliances, or any other device that contains a pilot flame or a spark).
- ◆ Store gasoline outside the home (i.e., in a garage or lawn shed) in a tightly closed metal or plastic container approved by an independent testing laboratory or the local or state fire authorities.
- ◆ Never store gasoline in glass containers or non-reusable plastic containers (i.e., milk jugs).
- ◆ Store only enough gasoline necessary to power equipment and let machinery cool before refueling it.
- ◆ Never use gasoline inside the

- home or as a cleaning agent.
- ◆ Clean up spills promptly and discard clean-up materials properly.
- ◆ Do not smoke when handling gasoline.
- ◆ Never use gasoline in place of kerosene.
- ◆ Use caution when fueling automobiles. Do not get in and out of the automobile when fueling. Although rare, an electrical charge on your body could spark a fire, especially during the dry winter months.
- ◆ Only fill portable gasoline containers outdoors. Place the container on the ground before filling and never fill containers inside a vehicle or in the bed of a pick-up truck.
- ◆ Follow all manufacturers instructions when using electronic devices (those with batteries or connected to an electrical outlet) near gasoline.
- ◆ If fire does start while handling gasoline, do not attempt to extinguish the fire or stop the flow of gasoline. Leave the area immedi-

ately, and call for help.



PROPANE

- ◆ Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Cylinder tanks for stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- ◆ Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- ◆ Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- ◆ Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when lighting a pilot
- ◆ If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately and call the fire department from outside the home.

www.nfpa.org

ELECTRICAL Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffeemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.

- * Have all electrical work done by a qualified licensed electrician.
- * When buying or remodeling a home have it thoroughly inspected by a qualified electrician.
- * Only plug one heat-producing appliance (coffee maker, toaster, hair dryer, flat iron etc) in a outlet at a time.
- * Major appliances (refrigerator, washer/dryer, stove, air condi-

tioner, etc) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plugs should NOT be used.



- * Arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI's) is a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home by a qualified electrician.
- * Use ground fault interrupters (GFCI's) to reduce the risk of shock where there is a possible contact with water. GFCI's shut off an electrical outlet when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages, and basements.

ALL outdoor outlets should be GFI protected.

- * Test AFCI's and GFCI's monthly to make sure they are working properly.
- * Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets.
- * Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Consider having additional outlets professionally installed so you do not have to use extension cords.
- * Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- * Replace damaged or loose electrical cords.

www.nfpa.org



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The NH State Fire Marshal's Office, along with the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society, is pleased to announce that the winners for the 1st Annual Fire and Life Safety Calendar Contest have been chosen! On Tues, April 30 a Night of Recognition was held at the NH Fire Academy where the 3rd graders were awarded and recognized for their artistic fire and life safety messages. Winners enjoyed a Sundae Social with Sparky the Fire Dog. Thank you to **ALL** 3rd graders throughout the state who participated in this year's contest.



Front Row: Annabella Wu, Levi Taylor, Jordan Sweeney, Maggie Jorczak, Hudson Willett

Second Row: Kevin Moscat, Vanessa Mahoney, Summer Pescinski, Harrison Clark

Third Row: Andrew Nielsen, Maeve Ryan, Sparky the Dog, Joshua Puleski, Olivia Pilcher



Kids Can Be Firefighters Too!

Check out these kid friendly web-sites related to fire and life safety.



www.sparky.org



www.smokeybear.com/kids



www.ready.gov/kids



www.sesamestreet.org/ready



www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/