



Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

John R. Kasich, Governor
David Goodman, Director

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Independence Day Holiday 2012

High Fire Risk Warning

Grills, open fires and even legal novelties such as sparklers can spark a fire that quickly gets out of control with the dry conditions. Fireworks are illegal to discharge without a license and a permit in Ohio. Please follow these safety precautions to help everyone stay safe this holiday season.

- Do not discard lit cigarettes outside, or along the roadways.
- Leave fireworks to the professionals. They are trained to take precautions and control the exhibit.
- For cooking or recreational fires, keep buckets of water, a hose and a fire extinguisher nearby in case of emergency.
- If an outdoor fire occurs, call 911 immediately. Move people from the area. Try to safely extinguish small fires with a water hose or buckets of water if able.

Grill Safety:

- Have a garden hose, fire extinguisher or buckets of water at the ready.
- Keep grills clear from overhanging branches, grass and other dry or flammable areas and materials. Also keep children and pets at least three feet away.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children and dry grass and other areas.
- Never grill under a tent, canopy or in a garage.
- Never leave the grill unattended.

Fire Pit Safety:

- If in a public area, know and follow all of the local rules.
- Wear well-fitted clothing. Loose articles and flammable material such as nylon should be avoided.
- Dig a pit in the dirt and circle it with rocks. The fire area must be 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.
- Remove all grass, twigs, leaves and extra firewood within a 10-foot diameter of the fire.
- Never leave the fire unattended.
- Extinguish thoroughly. Allow all wood to burn to ash, douse every ember in water and stir them with a shovel. Make sure everything is cool and wet to the touch.