

Welcome back to the Public Health Preparedness Press!

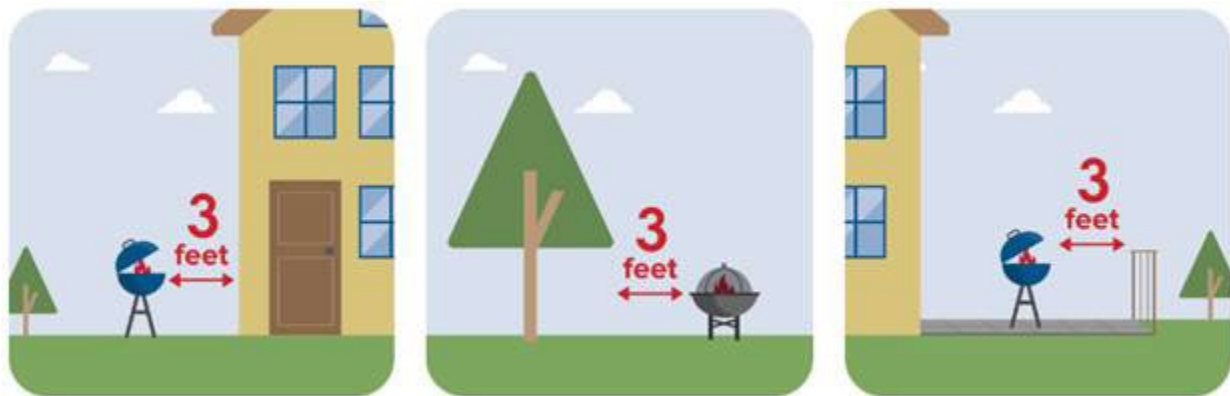


Each month, this newsletter will keep you informed about seasonal preparedness topics, public health awareness campaigns, and tools you can use both in your work and in your everyday life. Whether it's extreme weather, emergency planning, or national health observances, we're here to keep preparedness top of mind year-round.

Summer Fire Safety Tips

With warmer weather and more time spent outdoors, it's important to keep fire safety in mind. Whether you're grilling, enjoying a campfire, or celebrating with fireworks, taking a few simple precautions can prevent serious accidents.

Grill Safety



Use grills outdoors only. Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet grills should *never* be used indoors, as they pose a risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Create a safe zone. Maintain a 3-foot buffer around the grill to keep children and pets safe.

Stay close. Never leave a lit grill unattended.

Clean regularly. Remove grease build-up after each use to help prevent flare-ups.

Dispose of coals safely. Once cool, place used coals in a metal can with a lid.

U.S. Fire Administration Statistics:

In 2021, fire departments in the U.S. responded to an estimated 170,000 home cooking fires. These fires caused an estimated 135 deaths, 3,000 injuries, and over \$494 million in property loss.

Fire Pits, Campfires, & Outdoor Fireplaces



Choose a safe spot. Build campfires at least 25 feet from tents, shrubs, and other flammable materials.

Maintain distance. Place fire pits, outdoor fireplaces, and chimneys at least 10 feet from your home or anything that can burn.

Watch children closely. Never leave them unattended near open flames.

Fully extinguish fires. Always turn off or put out backyard fires before leaving the area.

Fireworks Safety



Avoid at-home use. Fireworks can cause serious injuries and fires. They also pose risks to pets and property.

Leave it to the pros. The safest option is to attend a public fireworks display organized by professionals.

More information:

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outdoor-fires/index.html>

DHS Statistics:

In 2022, there were 107
Emergency Department visits
with a fireworks-related injury in
Wisconsin.

Tips If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks:

- **Never let young children handle fireworks;** older kids need close **adult supervision.**

- **Never use fireworks under the influence** of drugs or alcohol.
- **Wear protective eyewear** when lighting or nearby.
- **Never hold or light fireworks indoors** or in containers.
- **Keep fireworks away from people**, homes, and flammable materials.
- **Light one at a time**, then move away. Never try to relight duds.
- **Soak spent or unused fireworks** in water before throwing them away.

More information: [Fireworks Safety Tips - National Safety Council](#)

What's Next?

In future issues of the Public Health Preparedness Press, we'll continue exploring topics that matter to our work and our community, like emergency communication, public health response roles, and seasonal hazards.

If you have ideas, questions, or want to highlight team efforts in preparedness, reach out! Let's make this a helpful, interactive resource for everyone.

Thanks for reading! 😊