

SMART THINKING

Summer 2021

Celebrate Safely this Summer

Fireworks are synonymous with summer celebrations, but before you focus on the fun, there are some serious safety concerns to consider. Burns, bodily injury, and property damage can easily occur, so we urge you to keep the following in mind:



- Never allow children to play with or light fireworks.
- Always have an adult supervising fireworks activities - even sparklers can burn at a temperature of about 2,000 degrees which can result in serious burns.
- Read the labels and performance descriptions of each firework before use.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.
- Never place any part of your body over a firework when lighting the fuse and back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Wear safety glasses when lighting fireworks.
- Never try to relight a dud firework.
- Light one firework at a time.
- Only use fireworks outdoors in clear areas away from buildings, vehicles and people.
- Always have a bucket of water or garden hose nearby in case of fire.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by dousing them with water and placing in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Remember, animals can be sensitive to loud noises and can become extremely frightened or stressed when fireworks are in use. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk of them running away or becoming injured.

Also, before use, check if fireworks are legal where you live and familiarize yourself with any local ordinances to ensure you're obeying the law.

Construction Zone Awareness

With the arrival of summer comes increased road construction and more traffic as vacationers buckle up and hit the roads. Before setting out on your road trip, review these safety tips to keep you, your friends and family, and the construction workers improving our roads, safe this summer.

- **Increase following distance.** According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, rear-end crashes are the most common type of work zone crash. Increasing your following distance from the vehicle in front of you will help reduce this hazard.
- **Reduce speed and be prepared to stop.** Be aware of construction zone speed limits. Construction zones often have uneven surfaces, narrowed lanes, irregular traffic patterns, and pedestrians working. Reduce your speed to safely navigate the construction zone.
- **Pay attention to the signs.** This will help you prepare for what conditions may lie ahead, notifying you of uneven roadways, one-way traffic, flaggers, unexpected detours, and irregular traffic patterns.
- **Merge as soon as safely possible.** If you are notified of a lane closing ahead, do not wait until the lane ends before merging into the lane of travel; merge early when you first see the lane closure warning sign.
- **Obey flagger's instructions.** Construction zones often require traffic to flow in irregular patterns. Always pay attention to and obey the flagger's instructions in a construction zone.
- **Stay focused and alert.** As the driver, it is critical that you avoid all distractions such as your cell phone, radio, GPS, and anything that would take your focus off the roadway, especially in a construction zone where conditions vary.



Preventing Dog Bites

Owning a dog comes with a lot of responsibility, including taking the proper precautions when it comes to your four-legged friend's behavior. Some breeds of dogs are more prone to aggressive behavior; however, any dog, large or small, can be triggered by certain circumstances which could cause serious injury. Here are some tips to help ensure your canine is set up for success:

- Enroll your dog in obedience training classes at a young age. This is also a great time to expose your dog safely and gradually to new environments, pets, and people, so that they can learn proper behavior early on.
- Always use a leash when walking your dog in public and use proper containment, such as a fence, at home.
- Learn what causes your dog stress and try to avoid those situations.
- If your dog shows signs of aggression, place them in a secure area away from others immediately.
- Never leave young children unattended with your dog.
- Teach kids safe ways to interact with your dog, such as gentle play, and to avoid sudden approaches when your dog is eating, sleeping, or when they have a toy or bone.
- If a stranger approaches your dog, caution them to give your dog time to get used to them before petting. Some dogs do not react well to being pet by unfamiliar people.
- Consider talking with your veterinarian about spaying or neutering your dog, as it can help lessen aggressive behavior or tendencies.



TIP!

If you have a dog, be sure to tell your insurance company what breed the dog is. Failing to do so could jeopardize liability coverage should the animal injure someone. And remember, proper precautions and training are vital to protecting those around you while also giving you and your pawed pal peace of mind.



SUMMER BOATING SAFETY:

Watch our boating safety video and sail into a fun and safe summer!



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Boating Safety Video