

Vacation Safety Tips

If you're planning a vacation and your home will be empty, you can go away with a freer mind and less worry if you check your home before leaving.

Make sure that all stoves and electrical appliances have been turned off or disconnected. Unplug all television sets, computers and radios. Lightning or sudden electrical surges could cause a fire in this equipment while you're away.

When you return from your vacation, check your smoke detector to make sure it is functioning. Batteries could run down or other components could fail while you're away.

Summer Fire Safety

Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, and picnics. Summertime also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor grills. Annually more than 8,000 Americans are injured by fireworks and grill fires.

It is estimated that outside cooking grills cause more than 6,000 fires, over 5 fatalities, more than 170 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss yearly. Gas grills alone cause over 2,700 fires, 80 injuries, and \$11

million damage. Most of the gas grill fires and explosions were caused by gas leaks, blocked tubes, and overfilled propane tanks.

Families also enjoy camping in the summer. It is important to follow the park's rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires.

Summertime should be a time for fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

Barbecue Safety

Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic.

Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes - where the air and gas mix - are not blocked.

Do not overfill the propane tank.

Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.

Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame could flashback up into



the container and explode. Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.

Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas - carbon monoxide could be produced.

Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing does catch fire. Call 911 if a burn warrants serious medical attention.

Campfire Safety

Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves.

Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand.

Keep plenty of water and a shovel around to douse the fire when you're done. Stir it and douse it again with water.

Never leave any fire, even one contained in a barbecue, unattended.