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Resiliency Digest

July 2021

*News & tips for being ready
before, during, and after emergencies.*

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CELEBRATION SAFETY

Summer celebrations are all about having a great time outdoors! When planning your activities, it's important to review firework and outdoor cooking safety to ensure the serious risks of improper handling doesn't ruin the fun.

If you are considering having fireworks, here are some sobering facts:

- Fireworks cause serious burns and eye injuries. Fireworks are illegal in many states for a reason.
- According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2018 U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,100 people for fireworks related injuries; 28% of those injuries were to hands and fingers, 24% to the legs, 19% to the eyes, 15% were to the head, face, and ears, and 4% to arms.
- Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the [***National Fire Protection Association***](#), sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

The best way to protect your family is not to use fireworks at home - period. The U.S. Fire Administration recommends attending public fireworks displays and leaving the lighting to the professionals.

If you decide to use fireworks, it is important to ALWAYS follow the instructions and safety tips to reduce your risk. For more on keeping your fireworks activities as safe as possible, check out the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).


PET SAFETY

More pets get lost on July 4th than any other day of the year.

Source: HomeAgain

Keep your cat safe this Independence Day. Check out these seven tips for enjoying the Fourth of July with your cat.

1. Be sure your cat is wearing an up-to-date and visible ID tag on her collar at all times.
2. Take a current photo of your cat, just in case.
3. Give your cat a good play session before people come over for any celebrations.
4. Ask guests to keep an eye out for your cat, to be sure she doesn't escape.
5. Keep charcoal, fireworks, sparklers and glow sticks far from curious cats.
6. Put your cat in a safe, escape-proof room during parties and fireworks.
7. If your cat is afraid of loud noises, leave gentle music playing to cover the fireworks.




Petfinder SUMMER Pet Safety Learn more at www.petfinder.com/SummerPetSafety

More pets get lost on July 4th than any other day of the year.

Source: HomeAgain

Keep your dog safe this Independence Day. Share these eight tips for enjoying the Fourth of July with your dog.

1. Be sure your dog is wearing an up-to-date and visible ID tag on her collar at all times.
2. Take a current photo of your dog, just in case.
3. Exercise your dog early in the day before parties begin.
4. During cookouts, ask guests to play with your dog away from the flames.
5. Keep charcoal, fireworks, sparklers and glow sticks far from curious canines.
6. Keep dog treats on hand for those who want to give your dog food.
7. Leave your dog at home with a frozen stuffed treat during the fireworks.
8. If your dog is afraid of loud noises, leave gentle music playing to cover the fireworks.



Petfinder SUMMER Pet Safety Learn more at www.petfinder.com/SummerPetSafety

Don't forget to make summer festivities safe for your pets too. Cookouts and fireworks may be awesome for people, but they are fraught with terrifying moments and unsafe situations for your furry friends. Get [ideas for a safer summer for your pets](#) from the Humane Society of the United States and by clicking the images above!

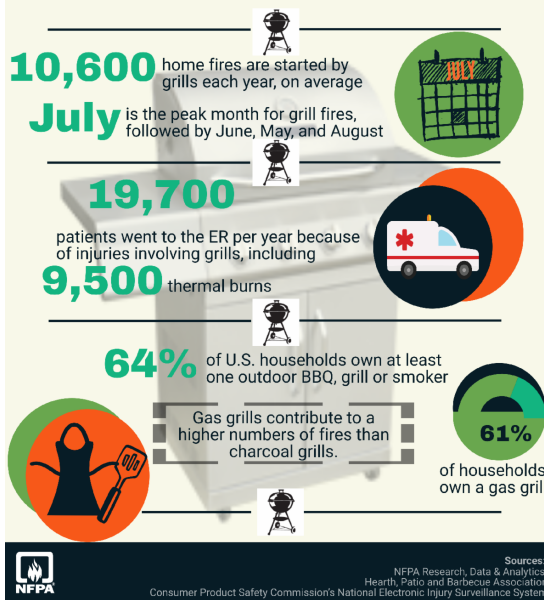
GRILLING SAFETY

Don't be one of the thousands of outdoor cooks that end up in the ER because of grilling accident. How would you do on this National Fire Protection Association quiz on the proper way to use your grill safely to prevent fires?

Take a couple minutes to be sure you know best practices for safe outdoor cooking!



GRILLING STATISTICS from NFPA



DROUGHT SAFETY

Virginia

[Home](#) > Virginia

Map released: Thurs. June 24, 2021

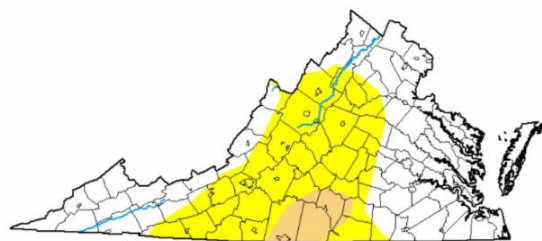
Data valid: June 22, 2021 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity



Authors

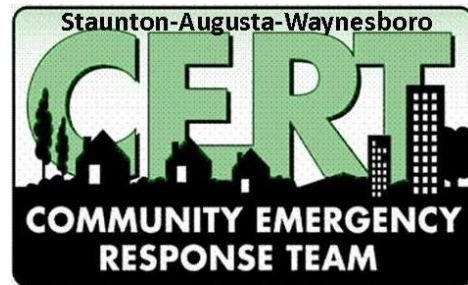
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center



According to the June [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), a large portion of the Commonwealth is considered to be D0 drought (Abnormally Dry). This is the first level of intensity and is a step below moderate drought. What does that mean for the average citizen? Strategies for drought preparedness should focus mainly on water conservation. [Ready.gov](#) offers excellent tips and resources for how to manage before, during, and after a drought.

Community Resiliency Achievements & Announcements

Did the start of the pandemic catch you off guard? Do you wish you had been more prepared? This fall, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training sponsored by Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro will restart. Learn how to be prepared for severe weather, emergencies, and disasters. The course is free and all materials will be provided. If you would like to learn more or be put on the waiting list for the Fall CERT Course, contact Rebecca Joyce SAW CERT Coordinator at rebecca@cspdc.org or 540-292-7754.



For additional resources to help protect yourself, loved ones, and property, visit the [*National Weather Service*](#), [*Ready.gov*](#), [*U.S. Fire Administration*](#), and the [*National Safety Council*](#).

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