

# Summer

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

### GRILLS

- Keep your grill at least **3 feet** from your house or deck
- Don't use a grill on a porch or balcony
- Create a **3-foot safe zone** around your grill to keep kids and pets safe
- Open gas grills before lighting
- Don't leave a lit grill unattended
- **Clean your grill** after each use to remove grease that may start a fire
- Dispose coals **once they've cooled** into a metal trash can

### FIREWORKS

- Fireworks are a beautiful show of patriotism, but they are also a **danger to people, pets, and property**
- Your property is especially at risk when conditions are hot and dry
- **The best way** to stay safe from fireworks is to not use them
- Instead, attend a public firework display put on by professionals

# CAMPFIRES

- Build campfires at least **25 feet away** from any structures, trees, plants, and shrubs
- Fire pits and outdoor fireplaces should be at least **10 feet away** from your house
- **Use a metal screen** over wood-burning fires to keep sparks from flying out
- Keep a close eye on children and anyone who may be intoxicated around a fire
- **Extinguish fires** before leaving them
- Keep matches and lighters **out of children's sight and reach**

# BACKYARD BURNS

- When burning sticks and other vegetation, **keep the pile small and manageable**
- **Check local regulations** before burning, as you may need a permit
- **Don't burn** when conditions are dry and/or windy
- Choose a burning site that's away from powerlines, trees, buildings, vehicles, and equipment

# OTHER FIRE RISKS

## AIR CONDITIONERS

- Each year, **thousands of fires are started by air conditioners** due to short circuits and electrical malfunctions
- Portable and fixed local AC units are **much more likely** than central AC systems to start fires due to inadequate wiring for heavy electric loads during a summer heat wave
- **Avoid this** by having your AC unit professionally inspected every year

## SMOKING

- Smoking is the **leading cause** of fatal fires year-round
- **Avoid smoking while drowsy**, as these fires are often caused by the smoker falling asleep with a lit cigarette
- **Improperly discarded cigarettes** are also a primary cause of house fires
- Avoid discarding cigarettes on the ground, especially when conditions are dry and windy

## STORMS

- If you know lightning has directly struck your home, **call the fire department** right away, even if flames are not immediately apparent
- **Power surges** and **shock waves** can also occur with a lightning strike, damaging your home's electrical and structure
- Have an electrician check for surge damage that may become a fire hazard, and have your home's structure assessed for damage as well