

Summer Safety Tips

Summer is here, and at long last you can spend your days and evenings outside, around the pool or on a campsite.

- Summer, of course, means barbecues. If you're the cook, wear a thick apron and oven mitts that are long enough to protect your forearms as well as your hands, and use long-handled utensils. The barbecue itself should be properly positioned - there's nothing like a spill to spoil a good meal! Never place the barbecue against a flammable structure or wall - leave at least 30 inches of clearance.
- Summer also means electrical storms. When you see lightning or hear thunder, turn off the barbecue, take shelter and wait for the storm to pass. **Never, ever move your barbecue indoors to continue cooking**, and never place it near a patio door. Carbon monoxide poisoning is insidious, and can be fatal. If your barbecue catches fire, close the cover and cut off the fuel supply.
- Some people prefer charcoal barbecues. If you're one of them, always use specially designed firelighters, NOT GASOLINE! **Never** pour fire-starting liquid onto hot charcoal.
- A pool can be a wonderful asset on a hot summer day. But did you know pool maintenance products can be dangerous? They are chlorine-based, and can spontaneously combust if brought into contact with organic materials such as acid rain, sweat and so on. They can also interact with products such as gasoline, motor oil, turpentine and acetylene. Store them carefully, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Keep them outside your home, in a dry, well-ventilated location well away from sources of heat and other stored products. If a container is damaged or leaking, dispose of the products safely.
- On a warm summer evening, you may decide to toast a few marshmallows as you sit back and enjoy the clear, starry skies. Outdoor fireplaces do not comply with air pollution standards. If you have one, remember that it is not an incinerator, and be careful what you burn. Stick to marshmallows - they're safer!
- Are you familiar with the Bengal lights used at festivals and other celebrations? They aren't as inoffensive as you think. Never give one to a child - they can set fire to clothing and other flammable materials. Did you know they generate temperatures of up to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit? That's hot enough to cause serious burns.

All you need to avoid danger is a little bit of care. Safety is everyone's business. So sit back and enjoy your evenings - secure in the knowledge that you've done everything you can to protect yourself and your family.

Courtesy of Safe Canada!

