



FSA – Keeping You Safe

How to Have a Safe Independence Day

How fortunate are we to celebrate the independence of our beautiful country? Every 4th of July friends and families across the nation celebrate this holiday with an outlet of all sorts of fun ranging from food, fireworks, sun, water, and more. With such a large variety of ways to celebrate, also comes a greater amount of precautions necessary to ensure a safe holiday. The [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) explains that in the month of July alone, 240 people on average are sent to the emergency room *daily* from firework related injuries. Whichever fun activity you plan spending doing with your friends and family this 4th of July Holiday, we encourage you to follow these safety tips from [The American Red Cross](#):

Beach/Swimming Safety

- Keep alert for local weather conditions; it is important to check to see if there are any warning signs or flags posted.
- If caught in a rip current, you should swim parallel to the shore until free from the current. Once you are free, swim towards the shore. If you are unable to swim at this point, float or tread water until you are at least free from the current.
- Do not dive headfirst into open waters—protecting your neck is important!
- Always swim with a buddy—this is particularly true for children.

Firework Safety

- Follow the instructions on the packaging. Do not attempt to light a firework before doing so.
- Always leave a water supply nearby.
- Never try to relight a firework that did not light properly the first time or is having problems lighting.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry area away from children or animals.

Barbequing Safety

- Never grill in enclosed areas—this includes tents, patios without ventilation, or home.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited.
- Follow the specific instructions of the manufacturers.
- Keep the grill out in the open away from any trees, a house, a deck, or anything that could potentially catch fire.

For more tips, please visit the [Florida Sheriffs Association's Crime Prevention Tips](#).