

Summer Safety



The Massachusetts State Fire Marshal offers these tips for a safe and happy summer.

Gasoline and Lawn Mowers

Gasoline vapors are highly flammable. They stay on your clothing and can ignite if you light a match or cigarette.

- Store gasoline only in approved containers, outside, or in a building away from the house. Never keep gasoline inside a house.
- Keep gasoline away from all heat sources including: smoking materials, pilot lights, campfires, and grills.
- Never fuel a lawn mower while it is hot. Let it cool off first.
- Keep hands and feet away from a mower while it is running.

Barbecue Safety

- Keep grills 10 feet away from the side of any building. Never use a grill indoors.
- Never leave a burning grill unattended. Keep children away from grills and propane cylinders.
- Never use gasoline on a grill!
- Grills can be used on first floor decks, balconies or patios ONLY if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or it is at ground level.

- Grills are prohibited on any porch, balcony, or deck that has a roof or overhang.

Gas Grills

Propane is heavier than air and sinks. A leaky grill can be a hazard to people below. Possible ignition sources include: smoking materials, air conditioners, compressors, pilot lights and cars.

Keep propane outside, 10 feet away from building openings (doors, windows, dryer vents) and 20 feet away from air intake vents and ignition sources.

Before lighting a grill:

- Make sure connections are secure and tight, and open the lid.
- Caution! If the flame goes out, turn off the gas and wait 10 minutes for excess gas to dissipate before relighting.
- Make sure the grease trap is clean.

Charcoal Grills

- Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start charcoal grills.
- After coals are lit, never add more lighter fluid to the fire. Flames can travel up the stream of fluid and burn you.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container.

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Overheated Car

When your car overheats, always:

- Turn off the car and wait at least one-half hour before opening the radiator.
- Use a heavy rag or cloth to open the radiator.
- Stand back as far as possible. Keep your face out of the way in case the radiator ruptures!

Opening hot car radiators can cause serious burns.

When a car overheats, or has run for a while, pressure builds up in the radiator.

If you open a hot radiator, hot steam and liquid can splash on your face and hands and burn you.

Hotel and Motel Safety

Select hotels and motels that have sprinklers and smoke alarms in rooms.

When you check into a hotel or motel, think about fire safety.

- Count the number of doors down the hall to the nearest fire exit.
- If you are deaf or hard of hearing, ask for a Hearing Impaired Kit from the front desk that has a strobe smoke alarm.
- Keep your room key, eyeglasses and a flashlight on the night table. If a fire happens, take them with you to the door.
- If the door feels cool, open it a crack. Be ready to close the door if hot air, flames, or smoke rush into the room.
- If this does not happen, but the hall is filled with smoke, crawl down the hall counting doors to the nearest exit.
- If you can't reach the exit, turn around and count doors back to your room. Unlock the door and go back in.
- Never use elevators in a fire.



If it is unsafe to leave your room:

- Fill the tub with cold water.
- Stuff wet towels around the door to keep smoke out.
- If possible, open a window and hang a sheet outside to signal for help.
- Cover your face with a wet cloth and stay low if smoke gets in the room.
- Do not jump. Call 911 to tell them where you are.

Fireworks

Enjoy professional, supervised fireworks displays.

The possession and use of fireworks by residents is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, cherry bombs, and more.

It is illegal to purchase fireworks in another state and transport them into Massachusetts.

Do not purchase fireworks by mail. Government cannot prohibit the sale of fireworks by mail, but police do confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks. Many consumers trying to circumvent the law have lost both their money and their fireworks.

Burn First Aid

- Stop, Drop, and Roll to extinguish a clothing fire.
- Cool a burn. For minor burns, run cool water over the burn immediately.
- Seek emergency medical help immediately for serious burns. Call 9-1-1.
- Use sunscreen to avoid sunburn.

