

JULY 2004

Fireworks Safety



Fireworks are great fun. Here is some information to help your celebration remain a safe one!

- Approximately 10,000 people are treated in hospitals every year for injuries resulting from mishandled fireworks, over 3,000 of these usually are children. Also, several fatalities occur each year from fireworks.
- County, state, and federal government lands (i.e., parks) are generally off limits for

fireworks.

- Always read and FOLLOW directions on the label.
- Always have an adult present to supervise the fireworks activity.
- Always buy from a reliable fireworks dealer.
- Alcohol and fireworks do NOT mix.
- Always use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass and trees.
- Always keep a water hose, bucket of water or fire extinguisher close by in case something catches fire, or in case of a malfunction or misfire.
- Always store your fireworks safely (preferably in a closed box) away from any source of accidental ignition.
- Always store your fireworks in a cool dry place.
- Only light one item at a time.
- Never try to re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never give ANY firework item to small children.
- Light fireworks a safe distance away from buildings or combustible/flammable areas. Remember, some fireworks are designed to fly a long distance.
- Always ensure that people are a safe distance from the fireworks being fired.
- Never throw or point fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot/fire fireworks from metal or glass containers.
- Never experiment, modify or attempt to make your own fireworks.



Critical Days of Summer Update Fast Facts

Now after four weeks, the count has climbed to a loss of 20 of our Sailors and Marines. Sadly, car accidents, SCUBA diving, swimming, motorcycles, and a good Samaritan's life have been given up.

A summary of accidents is available at:
<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/statistics/criticaldays/summary.htm>

Get the latest statistics at:
<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/statistics/criticaldays/>

More Critical Days of Summer resources can be found at:
<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/criticaldays.htm>



LIGHTNING SAFETY OUTDOORS

Each year, about 400 children and adults in the U.S. are struck by lightning while working outside, at sports events, on the beach, mountain climbing, mowing the lawn or during other outdoor activities. About 80 people are killed and several hundred more are left to cope with permanent disabilities. Many of these tragedies can be avoided. Finishing the game, getting a tan, or completing a work shift aren't worth death or crippling injury.

- **All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.** Lightning kills more people each year than tornadoes.
- **Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.** Many deaths from lightning occur ahead of the storm because people try and wait to the last minute

before seeking shelter.

- **You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder.** If you can hear thunder, lightning is close enough that it could strike your location at any moment.
- **Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death.** On average, 20% of strike victims die; 70% of survivors suffer serious long term effects.
- **Look for dark cloud bases and increasing wind.** Every flash of lightning is dangerous, even the first. Head to safety before that first flash. If you hear thunder, head to safety!
- **Blue Skies and Lightning.** Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles. Even when the sky looks blue and clear, be cautious. If you hear thunder, take cover. At least 10% of lightning occurs without visible clouds in the sky.

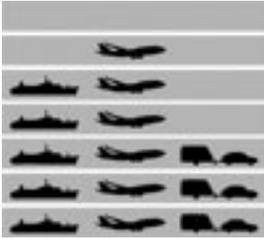
Source: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm>

Lightning Safety Rules

- ❑ Go quickly inside a completely enclosed building, not a carport, open garage or covered patio.
- ❑ If no enclosed building is convenient, get inside a hard-topped all-metal vehicle.
- ❑ Do not take shelter under a tree.
- ❑ If there is no shelter, avoid being the tallest object in the area. If only isolated trees are nearby, crouch on the balls of your feet in the open, keeping twice as far away from a tree as it is tall.
- ❑ Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.
- ❑ Get out of the water...off the beach and out of small boats or canoes. If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center of the boat away from metal hardware. Avoid standing in water, even if wearing rubber boots.
- ❑ Avoid open spaces, wire fences and clothes lines, exposed sheds and electrically conductive elevated objects.
- ❑ Do not use metal objects like golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools.
- ❑ Do not work on fences, telephone or power lines, pipelines, or steel fabrications.
- ❑ Stop tractor work and heavy construction equipment, especially when pulling metal equipment, and dismount. Do not seek shelter under the equipment.

- Do not hold hands with others and space yourself several yards from one another.

Becoming familiar with outdoor lightning safety rules can save your life or that of a loved one.



Navy Progress Towards 50% Mishap Reduction Goal

Navy Civilian Lost Workday Rate

Service	FY 02 Baseline	FY04 thru 01 May	FY04 Goal*	FY05 Goal*
USN:	39.8	34.29	28.16↑	19.91↑

Rate = Continuation Of Pay (COP) + Leave Without Pay (LWOP) Days Per 200,000/Pro-rated Hours

PMV (Off-Duty) Fatalities: (FY04 thru 31 May)

Service	Total/Rate	FY04/Goal*	FY05/Goal*	FY01-03 Avg
USN:	43/16.87	53/13.77↑	37/9.74↑	66.0/17.29

Off-Duty/Recreation Fatalities: (FY04 thru 31 May)

Service	Total/Rate	FY04/Goal*	FY05/Goal*	FY01-03 Avg
USN:	14/5.49	14/3.85↑	10/2.72↑	20.3/5.33

Source: <http://safetycenter.navy.mil>

MISHAPS IN JUNE

1. Employee slipped on a wet floor and injured both knees (on-duty, 1 lost work day).
2. Employee was struck by a needle while opening a glurometer. Lancet fell out and the needle point struck employee in the left index finger (on-duty, no lost work days).
3. Employee dislocated his shoulder taking a water cooler out of a truck (on-duty, 15 lost work days).
4. Employee got foreign object caught in eye while weedwacking area of the playground (on-duty, no lost work days).
5. Employee cut his right index finger while using a knife to clean his fingernails (on-duty, no lost work days).

Lets' be safe out there !!



REGIONAL SAFETY OFFICE
 1750 Tomcat Blvd. Suite 2170
 Virginia Beach VA 23460-2122
Oceana Bldg 230 • Dam Neck Annex Bldg 585
 OC- (757) 433-2692 • fax (757) 433-2694 • DSN 433
 DN- (757) 492-6630 • fax (757) 492-7411 • DSN 492
www.nasoceana.navy.mil/safety