



GWINNETT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY
SERVICES AND
Fire Station #4 - Proudly Serving Peachtree
Corners

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER

The Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services, encourages all citizens to have a safe and enjoyable summer season. Remember to include safety when planning outdoor activities and adventures.



FIREWORKS: The best way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional-public display. Never give fireworks to children and only light fireworks outdoors on a hard-flat surface, away from buildings, vehicles and grassy areas. Have a bucket of water, garden hose and portable fire extinguisher close at hand. Soak spent fireworks in a bucket of water before discarding them in the trash. If a fireworks device is not clearly marked with instructions, contents, and a warning label, do not use it. Purchase approved fireworks from a reputable vendor and not from a person on the street.



SWIMMING POOLS: The majority of water-related emergencies that firefighters and paramedics respond to occur during the warm weather months. Firefighters often respond to reports of accidental drowning and near-drowning incidents at backyard pools, apartment complex pools and neighborhood pools. The most common denominator in each of these is a lack of supervision of children in and around the water. GCFES encourages the use of a **“Water Watcher”** program. The program reminds pool-goers to have a designated/responsible and attentive adult supervise the pool. By periodically rotating the responsibility, one person isn’t burdened with watching the pool for

their entire visit. Be sure to provide a secure barrier to keep children away from the pool when not in use. Many backyard, apartment complex and neighborhood pools are swim at your own risk facilities. Even with a Lifeguard on-duty, your child is YOUR responsibility. Don't allow distractions to take your attention away from the water or the pool deck. Avoid excessive actions such as cellphone conversations, visiting with friends, reading or falling asleep while sunbathing. For adults, avoid the use of alcohol or being intoxicated while in or around the water. Adult drownings occur unnecessarily due to the overconsumption of alcohol and the inability to recognize an emergency before it's too late.



GRILLING SAFETY: Be sure to follow all safety precautions when grilling outdoors. Both charcoal and gas grills pose an extreme fire and burn injury hazard if not used properly. The use of grills on apartment balconies is prohibited under the Gwinnett County Fire Ordinance. Many apartment complexes provide grilling areas on the property that are located a safe-distance away from the building. For backyard grilling, keep a safe zone (3-foot radius) in all directions and teach children never to touch or play near the grill. For gas grills, always check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the line is not kinked or blocked and that no leak exists. For charcoal grills, use the proper starter fluid and be sure to store it out of the reach of children. Never add lighter fluid to hot coals. Properly dispose of hot coals by dousing them in water and stirring to ensure the fire is out. Dispose of coals and ashes in a metal container. Keep combustibles away from open flames and heat sources.



BEATING THE SUMMERTIME HEAT: Be sure to wear sunscreen, when participating in outdoor activities. Reapply often, especially if you are in the sun for an extended period of time. Check the label on sunscreen to select the product and level of protection that's right for you and your family. Wear light-colored and loose-fitting clothing to keep the body cool. Drink plenty of cool refreshing water to stay

hydrated and avoid the excessive use of alcohol. Pay attention to changing weather conditions and limit time outdoors during the hottest part of the day. Find a shaded area and take frequent breaks while working outdoors or participating in recreational activities. Be sure to check on the elderly to keep them safe. Never leave a child or pet in a hot car. Not even for a minute. The temperature inside the car can reach dangerous levels within a matter of minutes. Use a reminder to help you keep track of children, pets or other important items in the car. Lock car doors when parked or not in use, to keep wandering children out.



STAY ALERT FOR SEVERE WEATHER: The summer months bring an increased chance of pop-up thunderstorms and potentially severe weather. Be sure to check the weather forecast when planning outdoor activities. Avoid being outdoors or in the water during a lightning storm. Seek shelter in a substantial structure like a building or vehicle.

An open-air pavilion is not a safe area during a storm.

Protect your home and electrical equipment by turning off computers and household appliances until the storm passes. Know the difference between a severe weather Watch and Warning. Download severe weather alert apps on your cellphone or purchase a NOAA severe weather radio. Take precautions when storms are occurring in your area. Wait at least 30-minutes after the storm passes before resuming outdoor activities. Avoid contact with downed power lines after a storm. Report downed power lines or storm damage by calling 9-1-1.

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