



# MISSISSIPPI

## Insurance Matters

Taking insurance matters from over your head to under control.

**MISSISSIPPI**  
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

MIKE CHANEY *Commissioner and State Fire Marshal*



**Happy 4th of July!**



**“RED, WHITE & BLUE”**  
*Happy and Safe 4th!*

M I S S I S S I P P I F I R E A C A D E M Y



**Mississippi Insurance Department Wishes Everyone a Safe and Happy 4th of July!**





# SAFETY TIPS...



To help keep your family safe this Fourth of July, the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office, recommends these **Grilling Safety Tips**:

- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

- **Never leave your grill unattended.**

## ➤ **Charcoal Grills**

- **There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.**
- **If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.**
- **Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.**
- **There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.**
- **When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.**

## ➤ **Propane Grills**

- **Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.**
- **Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill.**
- **If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.**
- **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.**

## ➤ **FIREWORKS**

The [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#) says that there are more fires in the United States on the Fourth of July than any other day of the year, with fireworks accounting for more than half of those fires. Mississippians celebrating the Fourth of July with fireworks should also take extra care when children and teens are present. The greatest risk for injury involving the misuse of fireworks is for children 5-9 and teens 15-19.

For those choosing to use consumer fireworks, the Mississippi State Fire Marshal (SFM) suggests you follow these safety tips:

- **Observe local laws. Those wishing to purchase and use fireworks should first check with their Local County and/or fire protection officials to determine that local laws are being followed. Some municipalities prohibit fireworks from being used within city limits. Additional zoning regulations prohibiting the use of fireworks may apply in non-municipal areas. If you are unsure whether it is legal to use fireworks in your**

area, check with your local area officials.

- Use common sense and always read and follow the directions on each firework.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Buy from reliable fireworks sellers. Store them in a cool, dry place.
- Always have an adult present when shooting fireworks.
- Put used fireworks in a bucket of water and have a hose ready.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass, and trees.
- Light only one item at a time and keep a safe distance.
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

There will be many professional fireworks displays open to the public throughout the state on the Fourth. Attending a display and leaving fireworks in the hands of professionals is the safest way to celebrate the Fourth of July, believes the National Fire Prevention Association.

For more fire safety tips visit the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) or [State Fire Marshall](#) page of the Mississippi Insurance Department website at: [www.mid.ms.gov](http://www.mid.ms.gov) or follow the SFM on  [@MSFireSafe](#).



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