

**From:** [Secor, Kevin](#)  
**To:** [Undisclosed recipients:](#)  
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Tips for a Safe and Fun Fourth of July Celebration



For many people, the [Fourth of July](#) means cookouts and fireworks. These tips can help you have a safe and fun holiday.

### **Food Safety**

- If you're cooking for a large group, follow the [USDA's seven steps to success](#) (PDF).
- Everyone loves a good hotdog, but barbecues can cause unsafe food preparation. To prevent this, be sure to [keep your grilling safe](#).
- In the warmer weather, you might be doing more activities outside. If you're [hiking, camping, or boating](#) (PDF), the USDA has guidelines for keeping food safe without limiting your summer outdoor fun!

[Find more summer food safety tips.](#)

### **Fireworks**

Fireworks should be used only with extreme caution. [Make sure they are legal in your area before buying or using them.](#)

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.

[Find more firework safety information.](#)



