



Fort Belvoir Directorate of Emergency Services

Fire and Emergency Services Division

Office of the Fire Marshal

6100 Abbot Road

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Office: (703) 805-2091 Non-Emergency Dispatch (703) 806-6911



Memorial Day Weekend Safety

Fort Belvoir, VA—May 21, 2015 Memorial Day Holiday Weekend is here and for many of us that means fun in the sun as we honor the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy our freedoms! Thank you to all of the men and women who fight and have fought for our Military and all of their families! We will NEVER forget why we celebrate Memorial Day!

Unfortunately, each year the fire and emergency services division responds to various types of emergencies that could have been prevented. Improper or careless use of cooking equipment, improper disposal of BBQ ashes and illegal use of fireworks are major causes of fire in the region. Stop and think about fire prevention before it's too late. Additionally, this weekend is a great opportunity to enjoy the comfort of a local swimming pool or take a trip to the beach. If you are planning to travel, barbecue or spend a weekend in the sun, here are a few simple tips that will help you keep safe this Memorial Day.

We suggest you use the following safety tips around the grill:

Grills and smokers, while creating delicious cookout fare, have a great potential for danger. It is very important that a lit or hot grill is never left unattended; a responsible adult should stand guard as “grillmaster” to control flames and keep children and animals away from hot surfaces. Before your first grill of the year and often during grilling season, make sure your grill is ready for the job. Keep it clean of grease, inspect propane fuel lines, and position your grill away from structures, trees and high-traffic walkways. You should also take any precautions in case of a flare-up or fire were to occur; keep an extinguisher nearby and make sure you know how to cut off fuel lines if you are using propane.

Cooking on a deck or balcony in some jurisdictions is illegal, please check with your local fire department on local laws. Grills should not be used near any structure.



Grill fire on the deck with extension to house

"Keeping the Homefront Safe"



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We suggest you use the following safety tips around the pool or beach:

Spring can often be one of the more dangerous times of year to go swimming in the ocean. Large winter swells have moved a lot of sand around causing large holes and rip currents. If you plan on going to swim or visit the beach this weekend, we would like to give you some valuable information so that you can enjoy safely.

- Never leave children unattended around water.
- Put the cell phone away, forget about all the other things to do and give our young children 100 percent of your attention when they are near any water.
- Always swim near an open lifeguard station and never swim alone.
- Check in with the lifeguard before swimming for safest places to swim.
- Never dive into shallow water... Remember... Feet-first every time!
- Use swim fins and a leash whenever bodyboarding.
- Keep a safe distance from piers and rocks, and always obey warning signs.
- Protect yourself from the sun...use sunscreen and wear a hat.
- Respect other beach patrons and remember your beach manners.
- If you, or someone in your group gets lost, always find the nearest lifeguard.
- Never mix drinking alcohol with swimming!

Vacation is defined as an intermission from work for recreation or rest. Don't let your vacation be disrupted by a tragic accident.

Be careful and have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

To find out additional information about these topics, please contact the Fort Belvoir Fire Marshal's Office at (703) 805-2091.

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Memorial Day

Safety Tips

Fire



Never leave a grill unattended.
 Have a fire extinguisher ready.
 Clean off any excess grease.

Keep hot food heated until served.
 Keep cold food on ice or refrigerated.
 Cover all dishes to keep insects away.

Food



Sun



Wear a hat and sunglasses.
 Use sunscreen with an appropriate SPF.
 Reapply sunscreen when swimming.

Prepare your car for road trips.
 Plan your route ahead of time.
 Never drive after drinking.

Travel





American Safety Council

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RIP CURRENTS

Break the Grip of the Rip!

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:

www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.usla.org

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