

Don't Spark a Fire This Fourth of July -- Celebrate Your Holiday Safely

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BOTHELL, Wash. – This fire season, FEMA is urging extreme caution with any Fourth of July celebrations that include fireworks, campfires, or grilling. Record-breaking temperatures and drought conditions have increased the fire danger of outdoor recreational activities this summer.

Much of the region is currently under red flag warnings and faces the risk of thunderstorms and lightning strikes. Outdoor activities (driving on high grass, camping, grilling) heighten the [threat of human-caused wildfires](#). While fireworks are an American tradition, they also intensify wildfire danger and can be extremely dangerous in the hands of consumers.

According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), an estimated 19,500 fires reported to local fire departments in the U.S. in 2018 were started by fireworks. The [safest way to enjoy fireworks](#) is to attend a display put on by professionals or view a virtual show. Be sure to heed local regulations for firework use.

Group holiday gatherings also bring increased chance of exposure to [COVID-19](#). Follow local guidance for safe outdoor activities as well as recommendations for face coverings and social distancing guidelines.

FEMA wishes you a safe and happy holiday weekend.



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