



Summer Fire Safety

Make Happy Summer Memories While Being *Fire Safe!*

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue urges you to follow these fire safety tips to help you *enjoy* your Summertime activities.

BARBECUE SAFETY: *Fire up the grill - not the deck!*

- Read the Owner's Manual prior to operating any grill.
- Never leave your barbecue unattended, especially when children are around. Always have a hose, bucket of water, or fire extinguisher nearby in case of fire.
- Keep clothing, towels, and hot pads away from flames and use long-handled barbecuing utensils.
- Use charcoal lighter fluid sparingly and with caution. Never squirt "just a little more" once the fire is lit (even if it is just smoking) as the fire can shoot back up along the stream and explode the container in your face and hands.
- Briquettes can stay hot for several days and burn through paper bags or plastic buckets. Therefore, it's safest to wait two full days before transferring the used briquettes/ashes to a METAL can stored far away from combustibles (such as decks or siding).
- Open the lid while igniting a gas barbecue or wait five (5) minutes to allow the gas to clear if the barbecue does not light. Explosive flame-up may occur if you fail to clear the gas.
- At every change of propane tanks/bottles, check the fittings to ensure proper seal and fit.



GASOLINE SAFETY: *Fuel for equipment - not fuel for a fire!*

- Never smoke or strike a match or lighter while fueling a chain saw, garden tractor, lawnmower, and other gasoline engines. The invisible vapors are considered dangerous and explosive.
- When refueling your lawnmower or other gasoline-powered yard equipment, always turn off the engine to avoid stray sparks.
- Pour gasoline very carefully. If you spill gasoline, wipe it up immediately and let the saturated rag air out thoroughly.
- Keep gasoline in an approved container with a tight fitting lid to keep the vapors inside.
- Never store or use gasoline in an enclosed area or in the presence of pilot lights.
- Store gasoline containers out of the reach of children and away from potential ignition sources.



WOOD REFINISHING & STAINING PRODUCTS: *Use caution!*

Refinishing products containing linseed and other oils can generate their own heat. This can cause wadded-up or folded rags to spontaneously ignite.

- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions on all staining/painting products.
- Lay any used rags flat to dry on a non-combustible surface or place them in a METAL container partially filled with water and cover with a tight-fitting METAL lid.



Summer Fire Safety, Continued

SMOKING MATERIALS: *Use the ashtray - not the roadway!*

During the summer months, TVF&R experiences a sharp increase in brush and barkdust fires that start from improperly discarded cigarette butts.

- Extinguish and discard cigarette butts in an ashtray or appropriate metal container. Never throw them out a window!

MATCHES AND LIGHTERS: *Tools for adults - not toys for kids!*

- Always keep matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children. Discourage your children from picking them up and encourage them to tell an adult if found.

FIREWORKS: *Don't let a tragedy turn your celebration into a dud!*

Is It Legal?

Fireworks that explode, fly into the air, travel more than 12 feet on smooth ground, or behave in an uncontrolled and/or unpredictable manner are illegal in Oregon. Under Oregon law, officials can seize illegal fireworks and you can be fined \$500 per violation and/or arrested. You can be held liable for any damages resulting from misuse of any fireworks - legal or illegal, and parents can be held liable for damage caused by their children. In addition, fire departments can fine you for the cost of extinguishing a fire caused by fireworks.



Is It Safe?

There is a common misconception that “legal” fireworks are safer than “illegal” fireworks. Even legal fireworks are dangerous and have caused serious burns and injuries to people, especially to children. Sparklers, which are legal in Oregon and mistakenly believed to be safer than most fireworks, can burn at temperatures far exceeding 1000 degrees!

- Store fireworks, matches, and lighters out of the sight and reach of children.
- Only adults should light or handle fireworks and children and teens should be supervised at all times when fireworks are being used around them.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors on a paved surface, far away from homes, cars, and shrubs.
- Have a bucket of water or hose nearby to extinguish misfired and spent fireworks.
- Dispose of used fireworks in metal containers or douse them with water. It only takes one stray spark from a firework to ignite a roof, barkdust, shrubs, or tall grass/weeds - especially during dry summer conditions. A brush fire can quickly spread to nearby decks, fences, or siding on houses.
- Never aim fireworks at buildings, cars, people, or pets!
- Never alter fireworks or make your own - homemade explosives can be deadly!
- Never pick up or try to re-light a “dud.”

The best and safest plan is to attend a professional fireworks display and eliminate the risk altogether!

For additional fire safety information visit our web site at www.tvfr.com or contact your Division Office:

NORTH DIVISION

14480 SW Jenkins Rd., Beaverton, OR 97005
Phone (503) 356-4700

Serving the cities and communities of Aloha, Beaverton, Skyline, Tigard, and surrounding areas of unincorporated Multnomah and Washington counties.



We're Your Fire Department

SOUTH DIVISION

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Serving the cities and communities of Durham, King City, Rivergrove, Sherwood, Tualatin, West Linn, Wilsonville, and surrounding areas of unincorporated Clackamas and Washington counties.