

American Association of Safety Councils Issues Fourth of July Safety Tips

An estimated 400 people are expected to die on our nation's highways this Fourth of July holiday, according to the American Association of Safety Councils (AASC). This holiday is not only one of the most dangerous driving weekends of the year, but the day's cookout activities also create a safety risk.

"Our Independence Day is a great reason for celebration, but we all need to remember the threat this holiday represents to personal safety," said **Darby Vorce**, President for the **Association**. "We want everyone to have fun, but we want them to be safe too."

The **American Association** issues these Fourth of July Safety Reminders:

Holiday Traffic Safety

- Be aware of and avoid drunk drivers. Some signs include:
 - Drivers who turn with a wide radius.
 - Drivers at speeds 10 miles below the speed limit or speeding excessively.
 - Drivers who are following too closely.
 - Drivers who have a slow response to traffic signals.
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- Never drink and drive. Alcohol is the single largest factor involved in motor vehicle deaths. Have a responsible designated driver when you head out for Fourth of July activities.
- Don't allow the holiday rush to affect *your* driving. A few extra minutes saved by reckless driving aren't worth the injuries you may cause to yourself and others.
- When attending firework displays and special events, remember to obey all traffic lanes and signals, and avoid cutting directly across parking lots. Never race other drivers to an open parking space. When leaving the festivities, pay attention while backing out of your parking space to avoid hitting other vehicles or pedestrians.

Outdoor Grill Safety

- The first step to cookout safety is to have fresh food. Store meats and other perishables in an insulated cooler to prevent bacterial growth.
- Keep grills away from all flammable materials, including trees and shrubbery. Store unused starter fluid and charcoal briquettes away from the grill, preferably in a fireproof container.
- Keep your children away from the grill. Gas grills can have an interior temperature of more than 800 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Never add starter fluid to an already burning grill. The fire can spread up the stream of starter fluid and into the can causing an explosion. Also, wash your hands after using starter fluid to avoid setting yourself on fire.

Firework Safety

- Be sure that the fireworks display you plan on attending is a legitimate one. Legitimate firework events will have proper authorities and medical staff in attendance.
- Never take pets to a firework display. Animals can become spooked very easily by the loud noises fireworks make. Remember the bug spray. Mosquitoes and other insects are en masse this time of year.