

# SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

As the weather gets warmer and more inviting to outdoor activities, the St. Augustine Fire Department would like to remind Florida residents of some general seasonal safety precautions.

- ❖ **The wildfire danger remains high this year, with the predictions of continued dry weather, so we encourage residents to be especially careful.**
  - ❖ Do not burn debris unless absolutely necessary, and then only after making contact with the Florida Division of Forestry for clearance.
  - ❖ If burning, maintain a minimum of 50 ft. from all structures, brush or woodlands and watch constantly. Have a water hose handy.
  - ❖ Dispose of cigarettes in ashtrays rather than out the car window into the grass.
  - ❖ Refrain from using fireworks. Go to the professionally prepared presentations instead.
  - ❖ Remove underbrush and combustible debris from around your house to form a clear area of at least 50 feet on all sides.
  - ❖ Change batteries in your smoke detector.
  
- ❖ **Hurricane season began on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Begin preparations now!**
  - ❖ Gather and update your personal papers.
  - ❖ Plan ahead what you and your family will do in the event of a storm. Don't wait until the last minute to act.
  - ❖ Pre-cut plywood for your home or building openings and install hardware now to speed up the installation when needed.
  - ❖ Make a checklist of items and supplies to obtain prior to a storms' approach.
  
- ❖ **Learn and practice safe habits in relation to water activities.**
  - ❖ Always watch small children around any body of water.
  - ❖ Teach your children to swim for their own protection.
  - ❖ Be careful when at the beach. Waves and rip currents can take you off your feet quickly. Knowing how to react can save your life.

- ❖ Do not combine alcohol intake with boating or swimming.
- ❖ **Observe basic safety precautions in doing routine lawn maintenance and outdoor cooking.**
  - ❖ Never fill a hot lawn mower with gasoline.
  - ❖ Store gasoline only in approved, labeled containers with lids intact.
  - ❖ Refill cans at the gas station on the ground. Do not fill in the bed of a truck, where static electricity can ignite the vapors.
  - ❖ Avoid loose fitting clothes or nylon type clothing when cooking.
  - ❖ Inspect LPG (propane) cylinders for rust or other damage. If you are unsure of the safety of the container, take it to a local gas company for advice.
  - ❖ Do not store LPG cylinders in the house or garage and do not transport them in a passenger compartment or trunk of a car.
- ❖ **Be aware of the dangers of heat. In the summer months, temperatures in the 90's are common in the shade!**
  - ❖ Never leave children or pets in a vehicle. Even with the windows cracked, temperatures can rise to well over 100 degrees quickly and can be life threatening.
  - ❖ Regularly check on the elderly, especially if they are without air-conditioning.
  - ❖ Drink plenty of liquids, preferably water, all day long. Waiting until you are "thirsty" can be too late.
  - ❖ Cover exposed skin or use sun screen to prevent painful and sometimes serious sunburn. Skin will burn even on cloudy days.

**By practicing these simple safety precautions, we can all have an enjoyable Summer Season! Be Safe!**