

# SAFETY SENSE

## Play It *Fire* Safe This Summer

(NAPSA)—Although most home fires occur during the winter months, summertime—a time of barbecues, Fourth of July events and picnics—brings its unique fire hazards. Fireworks, outdoor gas and solid-fuel grill cooking are responsible for 12,000 fires in this country each year.

Follow these tips from the United States Fire Administration (USFA) to have hot summer fun... without getting burned:

### **Fire up the grill, not your surroundings**

- Always supervise grills when in use and keep children and pets away.
- If grilling on decks or patios, leave ample space from structures.
- When using a charcoal grill, use only charcoal starter.
- Do not add more fuel once the fire has started.

#### *For gas grills:*

- Do not overfill the propane tank; turn off the tank between uses.
- Make sure hoses aren't blocked or leaking.

### **Build safe campfires**

- When camping overnight, use a flame-retardant tent.
- Build fires five to six feet away, down wind, from tents and tables.
- Start fires with small twigs and paper. As fire grows, add deadwood and logs.
- Put campfires out, before sleeping or leaving, with soil or water.

### **Fireworks: Dazzling but dangerous**

- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before using them.



### **Do not wear loose clothing when grilling.**

- Use fireworks away from homes, flammable materials, dry grass and people.
- Keep a bucket of water or a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Don't wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- If fireworks don't go off, don't stand over them to investigate; saturate with water and throw away.
- If you find fireworks, don't touch them; report them to the authorities.

Serving the nation with a commitment to excellence, USFA, an entity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and now a part of the Department of Homeland Security, is the federal leader in addressing the nation's fire problems in the areas of public fire education and awareness, fire service training, fire-related technology and data collection. For more information, visit USFA's Web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) or call 301-447-1000.

*Some tips also provided by the National Fire Protection Agency.*