

FireWorks

Pennsylvania does not allow the use of consumer fireworks in the Commonwealth. Sparklers, toy caps, and certain novelties that stay on the ground are not considered “fireworks” and are legal to purchase and use in the Commonwealth. Purchase these items from a reputable dealer, and be sure they are in their original packaging, complete with instructions and warnings. Follow all instructions on the packaging; never alter fireworks.

The best way to enjoy fireworks is to attend public fireworks displays put on by professionals. The fireworks at Memorial Park are a great end to a day of fun and activities to celebrate the birth of our Nation. The fire department is always there to be sure that the fireworks don't start any fires.



Never light fireworks in or near dry grass, and always have a bucket of water and a hose or fire extinguisher nearby. The bucket of water makes a great place to store the sparkler sticks until they are cool enough to go in the trash.



Do not wear loose clothing when using fireworks or sparklers, and keep spectators at least 20 feet away. Never point or throw fireworks toward another person. Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them off in a glass or metal container.



Never relight a “dud.” Wait 20 minutes, douse it with water, then dispose of it. Dispose of all fireworks, including duds, in a non-combustible container such as a metal trash can. Keep the trash can outside!



Always supervise children around fireworks. Sparklers should be limited to children over the age of twelve. Various sources report that sparklers can burn at temperatures up to 2000 degrees!



Never use homemade or illegal fireworks; report them to the police.

Barbecue Safety



Before starting a gas grill, check the connection to the propane tank, and be sure the venturi tubes (where the gas and air mix) are free of obstructions.



The grill should be at least three feet away from any combustible material, especially your house. The Fire Code in Chambersburg prohibits grills of any sort on balconies in multi-family dwellings (see the FAQ's page of this website for complete details).



Use caution with lighter fluid. Never add lighter fluid after the fire is lit, since it can flash back to the container causing it to explode.



Never place hot coals in a plastic, wood, or paper container. Always douse them with water, stir to be sure they are out, and place in a non-combustible container.



Always grill outside. Grills give off carbon monoxide, which is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, and can render you unconscious before you are aware that something is wrong.



Teach everyone “stop, drop, and roll” in case clothing catches on fire. Never wear loose clothing when grilling, and keep children well away from the grill until it cools.

Family Safety



Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate such as stagnant pools of water, uncovered foods and gardens where flowers are in bloom. Use insect repellants containing DEET when needed to repel potentially disease-carrying insects and ticks. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) receives more than 20,000 reports of Lyme Disease (transmitted by deer ticks) and 100 reports of encephalitis (transmitted by mosquitoes) annually. Please be advised to read and follow label directions for all pesticide products, including insect repellants.



Children need to wear a helmet that meets the CPSC safety standard on every bike ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many injuries happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just on streets.



All skateboarders and scooter-riders should wear protective gear. Helmets that meet ASTM or other approved safety standards are particularly important for preventing and minimizing head injuries.



Children age 16 and under should not operate or ride as passengers on riding mowers. Children age 12 and under should not use walk-behind mowers. Children should be inside or at a safe distance well away from the mowing area. Clear the mowing area of any objects such as twigs, stones, and toys that could be picked up and thrown by the lawn mower blades. Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.



Gasoline for lawn mowers, etc. should be stored in an approved container and kept outside of the house in a shed or detached garage. Never store gasoline in the house.



Never leave any children, pets or adults in a closed, parked vehicle. Drink more fluids but avoid those that contain caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar since these are actually diuretics. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and plan activities when UV rays are the weakest before 11 a.m. and after 4 p.m.



Campfires are not permitted in the Borough of Chambersburg. If you are at a park or area that permits campfires, please follow all posted instructions and rules.