Firework Safety: Celebrate Responsibly

As summer approaches, the excitement of fireworks fills the air. From Independence Day to local festivals, fireworks are a beloved tradition that brings communities together. However, it's crucial to remember that while they are beautiful and exciting, fireworks can be dangerous if not handled correctly. The county is dedicated to ensuring that your celebrations are safe and enjoyable.

Understanding the Risks

Fireworks can cause severe injuries and fires if not used properly. Each year, thousands of people are injured, and many of these injuries involve children. Common injuries include burns, eye damage, and hand injuries. It's important to be aware of these risks and take steps to prevent accidents.

Safety Tips for Handling Fireworks

1. **Purchase Legal Fireworks:** Only buy fireworks from reputable sellers. Ensure they are legal in your area and follow all local regulations.

2. **Read and Follow Instructions:** Carefully read the instructions on each firework. Follow the guidelines for safe use, including how to light and dispose of them.

3. **Supervise Children:** Never let children handle fireworks. Even sparklers, which seem harmless, can reach temperatures of 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit and cause severe burns.

4. **Use Outdoors Only:** Fireworks should only be used outside in a clear area, away from buildings, vehicles, and flammable materials.

5. **Have Water Nearby:** Always have a bucket of water or a hose ready in case of a fire. After the fireworks have finished, soak them in water before disposing of them.

6. **Light One at a Time:** Only light one firework at a time, and move back quickly once it is lit. Never relight a “dud” firework.

7. **Protect Your Eyes:** Wearing safety glasses can prevent eye injuries from unexpected sparks or explosions.

8. **Stay Sober:** Avoid alcohol and other impairing substances when handling fireworks. A clear mind ensures better judgment and coordination.

Pet Safety During Firework Displays

Pets can become extremely stressed and frightened by the loud noises and bright lights of fireworks.

Here are a few tips to keep them safe and calm:

- **Keep Pets Indoors:** Ensure your pets are inside your home and in a secure, comfortable space during firework displays.

- **Provide Comfort:** Create a safe space with their favorite toys and blankets. Playing soft music or white noise can help drown out the firework sounds.

Upcoming Events

- **Independence Day**
  - July 4th

- **Trinity County Fair**
  - July 11th – 14th

- **New Hire Onboarding/Orientation**
  - July 15th

- **Spirit Day**
  - “Patriotic”
  - July 17th

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**Environmental Considerations**

Fireworks can have a significant impact on the environment. Consider the following to minimize your ecological footprint:

- **Opt for Public Displays**: Attending a public fireworks show reduces the number of fireworks being set off and minimizes environmental harm.

- **Clean Up**: Properly dispose of all firework debris to prevent pollution and harm to wildlife.

- **Alternative Celebrations**: Consider laser light shows or other non-pyrotechnic displays as environmentally friendly alternatives.

**First Aid for Firework Injuries**

In the event of an injury:

- **Burns**: Cool the burn under running water for 10-15 minutes and cover with a sterile dressing. Do not apply creams or ice.

- **Eye Injuries**: Do not rub the eye. Seek immediate medical attention.

- **Severe Injuries**: Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

**Conclusion**

Fireworks are a wonderful way to celebrate special occasions, but they must be used with caution and respect. By following these safety tips, you can ensure that your celebrations are not only memorable but also safe for everyone involved. Let’s make this summer a season of joy and responsible celebration!

Stay safe and enjoy the festivities!

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**UPCOMING TRINDEL TRAININGS**

**Supervisor Academy**

- **Understanding & Preventing Discrimination**
  
  July 31st, 2024 9:00 am

- **DSR Spotlight: TBD**
  
  July 31st 2024 2:00 pm
Welcome New County Employee’s

Joey Machado- Agriculture, Weights and Measures
Tiffany Ballard- Health and Human Services
Mark Pole- Department of Transportation
Justin Haire- Solid Waste
Anna Landers- Library
Eli Scott- Solid Waste
Anyone is able to participate in the Wellness Program, you can participate by:

- Earning 1 ticket for participating in daily stretching
- Earning 1 ticket for every 5,000 steps during your workday, including lunch and breaks. (Tracking to verify)
- Earning 1 ticket if you walk over 2 miles in the course of a week during work hours, including breaks and lunches.

A monthly raffle will be held where participant’s can win a $20 gift card to a local business of their choice.

As a reminder stretch tickets are due in the morning of the last working day of the month to Risk Management.

Employees can earn 15% back on gym memberships for themselves, spouse and dependents under 26. Must submit a receipt to HR for the effective months.

Congratulations to the following winners of the June Stretch Ticket Raffle.

- Amy Scribner- HHS
- Chan Saetern- BHS
- Ziah Garner- HHS
- Shelly Floerke- DA
- Brande Nelson- HHS

Health Tip of the Month

Vitamin D is an essential nutrient needed to support properly bodily functioning—everything from immunity to mood to defending cells against cancer! Though most of the nutrients our body needs are available via the food we eat, vitamin D is actually primarily obtained via sun exposure.

Unfortunately, for various reasons (including indoor lifestyles and the invention of sunscreen), vitamin D is one of the most common nutrient deficiencies in modern society. Here’s more about the symptoms of vitamin D deficiency and how lack of sun exposure can also lead to Seasonal Affective Disorder in wintery months.

Especially in higher latitude climates that have less sun exposure in the winter, summertime sun exposure is an important way to “store” vitamin D for the less sunny wintery months. (Fortunately, the body can store vitamin D for months, so sufficient sun exposure during the summer can help get us through less sun exposure in the winter.)

So, the first summer wellness tip is to get outside and get your vitamin D!

But, that said, proper sun care is also an important part of enjoying the sun healthfully!

What would you like to see offered in our Wellness Program? If you have an idea for wellness opportunities you think the county should offer, please reach out to HR and let us know, email hr@trinitycounty.org
SPIRIT DAYS

“Dress for Summer”

Upcoming Spirit Day

“Patriotic” - July 17th

Please feel free to send your photos to HR@trinitycounty.org
Employee Appreciation Picnic

Thank you all who came out and attended the Employee Appreciation Picnic.