

GENERAL
MANAGERBRAD
BIERSTEDT

Plan for a Safe and Happy Fourth

JULY HAS ALWAYS been a favorite month of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school, and we celebrate Independence Day. Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled burgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream and other sweet treats, and, of course, fireworks. It's a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at Karnes Electric Cooperative, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we remind you of a few important safety tips from the American Red Cross.

It wouldn't be Independence Day without a spectacular fireworks display. The safest way to enjoy this part of the holiday is to head to a local fireworks show. **But if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:**

- ▶ First check to see if your area has an active burn ban. If so, fireworks are prohibited due to high fire danger, and you should not set off any.
- ▶ Always follow the instructions on fireworks packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- ▶ Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- ▶ Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- ▶ Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a dud.
- ▶ Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.

- ▶ Never throw or point fireworks toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your backyard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety.

We recommend the following safety tips:

- ▶ Supervise your grill at all times.
- ▶ Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- ▶ Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited.
- ▶ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using grills.

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. **Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you enjoy the sun safely:**

- ▶ Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often, especially if you'll be swimming.
- ▶ Protect your eyes with sunglasses.
- ▶ Drink plenty of water.
- ▶ Be on the lookout for signs of heatstroke: hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing.

Karnes EC wishes you a safe and special Independence Day. ■

