



Volume 7, Issue 2

July 2011

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**Upcoming Issue in August 2011
Public Health Emergencies**



Public Health Emergencies may be related to outbreaks of infectious illnesses (such as pandemic flu and West Nile virus), food and waterborne illnesses (such as Salmonella, E. coli) as well as other threats to the public's health and safety. Man-made attacks can also create public health emergencies.

2011 Upcoming Topics

July

How to survive the Summer

August

Public Health Emergencies

September

Fact or Myth Terrorism

October

Are You Prepared for the Holidays

November

Fact or Myth: Fireplaces

December

Don't Give in to the Cold

City of Santa Barbara

Get Ready Santa Barbara!

Stay informed in 2011

How to Survive the Summer



Every year we look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and Fiesta. However, this season also brings fires and injuries due to outdoor cooking and recreational fires. Annually, there are almost 3,800 Americans injured by gas or charcoal grill fires. (Source: CPSC - 05/2011). Summertime should be a time of fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following safety instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

Residential Grill Fire Facts An estimated 5,700 grill fires occur on residential properties each year in the United States. Almost half (49 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur from 5 to 8 p.m. and usually start on patios, terraces, screened-in porches, or courtyards.

Grill Safety

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane Grills

- Check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane quickly by releasing bubbles.
- If you determined your grill has a gas leak by smell or the soapy bubble test and there is no flame:
 - Turn off the propane tank and grill.
 - If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
 - If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
 - If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.

Campfires

When you're ready to put out your fire and call it a night, follow these guidelines:

- Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible.
- Pour lots of water on the fire; drown all embers, not just the red ones.
- Pour until hissing sound stops. Stir the campfire ashes and embers with a shovel.
- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers.
- Stir and make sure everything is wet and they are cold to the touch.
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough dirt or sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool. REMEMBER: do NOT bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire.

REMEMBER: If it is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!

Myths and Facts about Burns

MYTHS: Minor Burns- DO NOT USE!!

Apply Ice	Apply Petroleum Jelly
Apply Butter	Re-burn a Burn
Apply Baking Soda	Pop A Blister
Apply Lotion or Ointment	Apply cow dung



FACTS: Minor Burns (small reddened area)

- Use cool compresses of water as often as needed to relieve pain. This is the most effective and comforting treatment.
- When the pain has subsided, gently clean the burn with cool running water
- Allow the area to dry and apply a Curad Hydro Heal bandage to help the wound heal naturally.
- Be sure to cleanse the wound and change the bandage at least daily or whenever it becomes wet or dirty.
- Consider an age appropriate over-the-counter pain reliever as necessary.
- Consult your doctor if the wound does not heal in, one week or less or if any of the following warning signs of infection appear: increased pain, redness, swelling, or a yellow discharge from the wound.
- Do not use ice or ice-containing compresses as they may further injure the skin.
- Do not break any blisters.
- Do not use adhesive bandages as they will stick to the skin and may further injure it.



Things you wanted to know but were afraid to ask.

1. A tan is healthy

A suntan is a skin injury. It is evidence of damage from the sun.

2. It's safe to swim in polluted water, as long as you don't swallow the water.

Never swim in polluted water. Observe signs on beaches where contamination is present and avoid going in the water.

3. Ozone is found only high in the atmosphere, where it filters out harmful rays from the sun.

Wrong, there is ground level ozone—also known as smog.

4. You can't get burned on a cloudy day.

Actually yes you can. Up to 80% of UV rays can travel through clouds, fog and haze. UV rays can even travel through glass... so that means that sitting near a sunny window is putting yourself at risk. That is why it is so important to use a sunscreen that protects you against the aging rays as well as.

Disaster Facts 2011 –Earthquakes, Fires, and Floods, etc.

Although 2010 was considered the year of disasters throughout the world; 2011 is already starting to catch up. Listed below are some of the major events from around the globe for 2011.

Nov. 14, 2010 to Present, Fires, 3,241,510 acres, State of Texas (Texas has had a total of 13,731 fires)
Feb. 21—Earthquake 6.3, Christchurch New Zealand
Mar. 9—Fire 18,000 acre, Florida
Mar. 11—Earthquake 9.0, Japan
Mar. 11-12, Tsunami damage, Santa Cruz, CA
Apr. 28, Storms, 300 fatalities, South Alabama
May 23, Tornado, 88 fatalities, Missouri
May 29, Fires, 169,000 acres, Arizona
Jun. 26, Fire, 130,691 acres, Los Alamos, New Mexico



These are just a few of the events happening around the world. Remember that it's not if, but when a disaster will strike. Now is the time to prepare a disaster plan for you and your family. Contact the City's Office of Emergency Services for more information.

City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



OES is on the web!

<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/OES>

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Emergency Preparedness Tip:

Most schools are out and summer is here. However, school will start again soon. Listed below are some things to think about before you send your child to school:

- Do you know your school's emergency plan
- If your child's school is evacuated, where do they go
- What happens if you are unable to pick up your child
- What are the threats surrounding your child's school
- How does your child's school deal with school place violence
- Have you asked how you can be involved with emergency planning



Now is the time to start thinking about these issues.