Ten Safety Tips for this 4th of July

(FEMA - CHICAGO) – Ensure your Independence Day weekend is filled with celebration and not regret with these 10 fire safety tips, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V office in Chicago:

- Be sure fireworks are legal in your area before using or buying them.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities and never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks. Sparklers alone account for one quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.
- If you set off fireworks, keep a bucket of water handy in case of malfunction or fire.
- If fireworks malfunction, don’t relight them! Douse and soak them with water then throw them away.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially one that is glass or metal.
- Use your grill well away from your home and deck railings, and out from under branches or overhangs.
- Open your gas grill before lighting.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below your gas or propane grill so it cannot be ignited.
- Declare a three-foot “kid and pet-free zone” around the grill to keep them safe.
- Avoid loose clothing that can catch fire when cooking on the grill.

You can find more information and tips on being fire safe this Fourth of July, by visiting https://www.usfa.fema.gov/, and be sure to download the FEMA app, available for Apple, Android and Blackberry mobile devices. The app includes home fire safety tips and reminders users can set to test smoke alarms (monthly), change smoke alarm batteries (yearly), and practice fire escape plans (every six months).


Holiday Weekend Weather Outlook

NWS Paducah, KY

Isolated thunderstorms will be possible mainly across western Kentucky today. Heavy downpours and lightning expected. The best chances for thunderstorms will be Sunday into Monday when severe storms will be possible. The best potential for severe storms is Sunday afternoon and evening. Another potential round of strong to severe thunderstorms may develop in the vicinity of the front Monday afternoon and evening, as it moves eastward through and eventually out of the region. In addition to the severe weather potential, heavy rainfall in the 2-4” range will be possible from Saturday through Monday over the northern half of the region. The highest amount of precipitation expected near I-64. Flash flooding will become more likely with each successive round of thunderstorms this weekend.
**NWS Louisville, KY**
Increasing clouds on Saturday with low humidity. Slight chance of PM showers west of I-65. Highs 79 to 84. Outlook through Independence Day includes several rounds of showers/storms likely. Best chance Sunday night into Monday. Total rainfall 1-3” possible by Tuesday. Heaviest amounts over southern Indiana.

**NWS Jackson, KY**
A THUNDERSTORM WILL BE POSSIBLE THIS EVENING.

**DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...SATURDAY THROUGH THURSDAY.**
THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE POSSIBLE LATE SATURDAY NIGHT THROUGH SUNDAY. A FEW OF THE STORMS DURING THIS TIME COULD BE STRONG WITH HIGH WINDS AND TORRENTIAL RAINFALL THE MAIN THREAT.

PERIODS OF THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED FROM LATE SUNDAY NIGHT THROUGH MONDAY NIGHT. THERE IS STRONG POTENTIAL FOR INSTANCES OF FLASH FLOODING...DUE TO TRAINING STORMS IN A VERY MOIST ENVIRONMENT.

THUNDERSTORMS ARE POSSIBLE AGAIN TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY.

**NWS Wilmington, OH**
SIGNIFICANT ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE WILL SPREAD INTO THE REGION EARLY NEXT WEEK. AS LOW PRESSURE TRACKS EAST ACROSS THE OHIO VALLEY, WIDESPREAD SHOWERS WITH SOME EMBEDDED THUNDERSTORMS WILL OCCUR. RAINFALL MAY BE HEAVY AT TIMES SUNDAY NIGHT INTO MONDAY. THE TRACK OF THE LOW WHICH IS STILL SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN, WILL DEFINE WHERE THE HEAVY RAIN AXIS LAYS OUT. LOCALIZED FLASH FLOODING WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR AREAS THAT REPEATEDLY RECEIVE HEAVIER RAINFALL.

 Reform needed after failed HHS Ebola response

(CIDRAP) The US government was not prepared to rapidly respond to the domestic or international threat of Ebola, but increasing efforts to treat disease outbreaks abroad can protect the health of Americans, according to a report today that revisited the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS's) response to the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak.

An independent panel made up of public health, medicine, and government experts reviewed HHS efforts in July of 2015, critiquing the department's response and making recommendations for future emergency outbreaks. Jonathan Feldman, MD, MPH, distinguished professor of health policy and management, and pediatrics at University of California, Los Angeles, chaired the panel.

The committee made several recommendations that could apply as America faces the threat of Zika virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses. In addition to working with other nations on vaccines and medicine development, the panel recommended the HHS strengthen low-resource country's public health efforts through "pursuing the activities of—and committing funding for—implementation of the Global Health Security Agenda, thereby strengthening international detection and response to urgent public health threats."

Additionally, the panel recommended that HHS coordinate with the National Security Council to clearly establish roles for HHS when a crisis or emergency has both international and domestic components.

On the domestic front, the panel recommended that HHS maintain a national network of identified Ebola treatment centers, with standardized procedures for triaging potential patients.

Even With Hundreds More Cases In U.S.,
Zika Scares Americans Less Than Ebola

Two-thirds of Americans say they are “not too” or “not at all” worried about Zika. Meanwhile, Senate Democrats say Congress shouldn’t take August recess without reaching a Zika funding deal, three more babies in the U.S. are born with Zika-linked birth defects, a look at where the mosquitoes are in California and an expert talks Zika and the Olympics.

Read Kaiser's collection of reports: http://khn.org/morning-breakout/even-with-hundreds-more-cases-in-u-s-zika-scares-americans-less-than-ebola/

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National Academies report <<Click below >>
The Nation’s Medical Countermeasure Stockpile: Opportunities to Improve the Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Sustainability of the CDC Strategic National Stockpile: Workshop Summary.

Federal report discloses incidents in high-containment labs
(CIDRAP) Document from Federal Select Agent Program aims at public transparency on lab work involving potentially dangerous pathogens.

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E coli outbreak linked to General Mills flour grows to 42 cases in 21 states

An outbreak of *Escherichia coli* O121 linked to General Mills flour has grown by 4 cases, to 42, and the company has expanded its recall, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said today.

Cases have now been reported in 21 states, with Indiana just added to the list. Eleven patients have required hospitalization, one more than in the CDC's initial report on the outbreak on Jun 1.

Illness-onset dates range from Dec 21, 2015, to Jun 8, with patients trending young. They vary in age from 1 to 95 years, but with a median age of 18. About 81% are female. No patient has developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a type of kidney failure, and no deaths have been reported.

CDC link: http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2016/o121-06-16/index.html
Case counts by state: http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2016/o121-06-16/map.html

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UPMC Health Security Headlines
Extracts from July 1, 2016

**Zika Fears are Growing among Women in US** (The Wall Street Journal: subscription required)
Some doctors say they are being inundated with questions about the risk to pregnancy, symptoms and when to test for the virus. Go to article

**Southern Europe’s Coming Plagues: Vector-Borne Neglected Tropical Diseases** (PLOS: Neglected Tropical Diseases)
New social and environmental forces, including economic downturns, climate change, and human migrations from the Middle East and North Africa, are merging into a "perfect storm" to promote the widespread emergence of neglected tropical diseases in Southern Europe. Go to article

**2015 Annual Report of the Federal Select Agent Program** (Select Agent Program) FSAP oversees the possession, use and transfer of biological select agents and toxins so that research can be conducted as safely and securely as possible. This research provides important scientific discoveries that have led to improved detection, prevention, diagnostic, and treatment options for diseases considered to be some of the most threatening to public health. Go to article
Mass General hack of outside vendor exposes info of 4,300 patients
(Boston Herald) June 30, Boston Herald – (Massachusetts) Massachusetts General Hospital announced June 29 that the personal and medical information of 4,300 patients may have been exposed after its third-party vendor, Paterson Dental Supply Inc.’s, computer server was breached in February. Following the breach, the third-party vendor enhanced security protocols and began notifying all affected patients.

Android ransomware quadrupled in the past year
June 29, Softpedia – Kaspersky Lab released a study which revealed that in 2016, Android ransomware infections grew 4 times the amount of previous years, increasing from 35,413 victims in 2015 to 136,532 victims in 2016. Security researchers stated the attacks were attributed to four Android ransomware strains including Small, Fusob, Plerot, and Svpeng.

UofL adds online program to help healthcare professionals earn bachelor’s degree

Students can earn up to 48 credit hours

The program, offered by the College of Education and Human Development, lets students with at least 2,000 hours’ experience in healthcare and 24 transferable college credit hours work toward a Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership and learning.

It’s an example of “competency-based education,” a teaching model recognizing the value of lessons learned outside the classroom through employment, military service or other training. Depending on their proficiency, students can earn up to 48 credit hours for their on-the-job learning.

Classes are offered online as a set of 36 modules weighted at one credit hour each, with the option to test out of a module if the student has already mastered that topic. Students can complete the program in as little as three intensive semesters, or work through it at a slower pace more convenient to them. A Healthcare Leadership Success Coach is also available to provide students with focused academic counseling throughout their time in the program.

Read more: http://www.lanereport.com/64969/2016/06/uofl-adds-online-program-to-help-healthcare-professionals-earn-bachelors-degree/

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of Emergency Preparedness Updates available here. If you would like to added or deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact preparedness@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.