

The all too short season of Summer is quickly approaching. While you're enjoying the warm weather and sunlight please keep a few safety tips in mind.



If you enjoy an evening gathered around the campfire, make sure you have a current Recreational Burning Permit handy. They are only \$25 for the calendar year. Don't



risk a \$250 fine for not having your permit. Only clean, dry firewood is allowed. No garbage, yard debris or wet/freshly cut wood. Make sure you have a way to extinguish the fire, such as a garden hose, readily available. The fire must be extinguished prior to turning in for the night. Remember to drown, stir, drown, and repeat until all the hot spots are out.

Summertime means July 4<sup>th</sup>! As a reminder, only ground-based fireworks are permitted in Minnesota. Please make sure all safety regulations and tips are followed when you're celebrating Independence Day. Fireworks are not toys, don't let small children play with or light them. Remain far enough away from buildings and vegetation so the evening's festivities don't rapidly turn bad, and don't forget about the Fireworks Show on the River. Both Hester and Wilson Parks are great vantage points to watch this free show.



If you tend to enjoy a quieter summer in the garden, we have some safety reminders for you. If you have planter pots on your deck or patio and you smoke, please do not use planters as an ashtray. The potting soil found in most garden centers is usually comprised of a fertilizer, peat, and composted wood chips mix. As soon as the mixture begins to dry and the vegetation dies, a cigarette can smolder and start a fire. If the pot is next to a building, the building can ignite, sometimes even days later.

Minnesota summers are also the season for severe weather. Be mindful of the weather forecast. If you will be traveling around the state keep a backup plan in mind should severe weather move into your area. In town, listen for tornado sirens and turn on severe weather notifications on your smart phone or other device.



As your new Fire Chief, I wish you a wonderful Minnesota Summer. I also encourage you to contact your St. Cloud Fire Department if you have any questions about recreational burning permits, grills, fireworks, or anything else we can assist you with. I look forward to seeing you around town enjoying this time of year in our beautiful city!

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