**FIREWORKS SAFETY**

Independence Day is next week and plenty of folks will be celebrating with BBQs, parties, and, of course, fireworks. While fireworks are a fun, dazzling way to celebrate this great American holiday, remember that they can also be very dangerous. If you plan on lighting up some fireworks, keep these tips in mind to stay safe!

**Before Using Fireworks**

Before you light up the fireworks, here’s a few steps you can take to prepare:

**Be Informed**
- Check your local regulations and make sure there are no firework bans in place.
- Check the weather forecast and avoid lighting fireworks during fire weather conditions (e.g., high winds and dry).

**Pick the Right Spot**
- Only use fireworks on open, flat, inflammable, & sturdy spaces.
- Only light fireworks away from people, homes, and flammable material.

**Plan for Fires**
- Keep a bucket of water, water hose, or fire extinguisher handy in case a fire breaks out.

**Using Fireworks Safely**

When you light up your fireworks, use the best practices to stay safe, such as:

**Get Moving**
- Always maintain a safe distance from lit fireworks and move away quickly once lit.

**Pace Yourself**
- Only light one firework at a time. Lighting multiple fireworks at once increases the likelihood of injury.

**Supervise Your Kids**
- Never let children light fireworks unsupervised. Even sparklers can cause serious injuries.

**Properly Dispose of Fireworks**
- Put any spent fireworks in a bucket of water to ensure that they are completely extinguished.

**NEW PODCAST EPISODE**

Check out the latest episode of our podcast, *For The Health Of It!* This week’s episode features one of our awesome local partners, Cowley County’s K-State Research and Extension Office!

Becky Reid joins Tom & Ally in studio to discuss a variety of topics including the farmers markets, the county fair, food preservation, and much more!

Give this episode a listen on any of your favorite podcast platforms! Or check it out on YouTube at the link below: [youtu.be/oKWvx0e2mUg](youtu.be/oKWvx0e2mUg)

Learn more about K-State Research & Extension Office’s work by visiting their website at the link below: [www.cowley.k-state.edu](www.cowley.k-state.edu)

Interested in hearing about particular topics? Let us know by visiting the link below: [survey.alchemer.com/s3/7394023/For-The-Health-Of-It-Survey](survey.alchemer.com/s3/7394023/For-The-Health-Of-It-Survey)

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**4TH OF JULY CLOSURE**

Both locations of the Health Department will be closed on Thursday, July 4th. Our normal hours will resume on Friday, July 5th.