



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA's Summertime Safety Tips

Columbia, SC... Summertime can mean creating fond memories of family fun. Whether at the pool, travelling around town or shooting off leftover fireworks, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) offers the following tips to stay safe:

Pool Safety

- **Be prepared.** Create a pool safety kit in the event of an emergency. The kit should include: *A first aid kit, a pair of scissors (for cutting hair, clothing, or a pool cloth), a charged cell phone, and a floatation device.*
- **Supervise the pool at all times.** Assign an adult to watch the water while people are in or near the pool.
- **Establish rules for the pool.** Discuss and enforce safety rules like “No running,” “Stay away from pool drains” and “Swim with a buddy” with swimmers.
- **Wear the proper safety attire.** Young and inexperienced swimmers should wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets. FAQs on life jacket specifications for adults, children and infants can be found here, www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg5214/pfdselection.asp#faq.
- **More tips.** Visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.poolsafely.gov.

Kids Safety in Hot Cars

- **Never leave a child in a car.** Not even for a minute. Also, keep car doors locked when in the driveway so that children cannot enter the car without an adult’s knowledge.
- **Create a reminder.** Put something necessary at the workplace, like a purse or briefcase, in the back seat with the child, especially when deviating from a routine. Place any baby bag in the front seat. Free reminder stickers are also available through www.remembersophia.org/.
- **Call 911.** Contact emergency responders if a child is left unattended in a car.

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- **More tips.** Visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at www.safercar.gov.

Fireworks Safety

- **Supervise at all times.** Never allow children to handle or use fireworks.
- **Know your fireworks.** Read and follow the instructions carefully before igniting.
- **Be prepared.** Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby. If a firework does not go off, douse it with water and consider it a dud. Do not try to relight it.
- **Watch out for others.** Shoot fireworks outdoors away from houses. Fireworks can shoot in the wrong direction or backfire. Never throw or point them at someone else.
- **More tips.** Visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Fireworks Information Center at www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks/.

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SCDCA aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit www.consumer.sc.gov or call toll-free, 1.800.922.1594.

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