



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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DODGE DANGEROUS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES THIS WEEKEND

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (May 25, 2011) – Citizens throughout Marion County celebrate Memorial Day in many different ways. But – danger can lurk beside some favorite Memorial Day activities. Follow the below safety tips from Marion County Fire Rescue to ensure you spend your holiday weekend with friends and family, not the ER staff.

Grilling

The tastiest grilled foods are the ones that don't get people injured while preparing them, so:

- Store and use grills on non-flammable surfaces like concrete or asphalt and keep a fire extinguisher, garden hose or other water supply nearby.
- Keep the grill at least 10 feet away from your house, garage and trees.
- Keep children and pets away while actively grilling.
- Keep your grill clean and remove grease or fat buildup in the trays below.
- Check the cylinder hose on your propane tank for leaks before using it for the first time each year.
- Never start a propane grill with the lid closed.
- Never use any flammable liquids.
- Always soak coals with water; they retain heat for long periods of time.

Swimming

In mere seconds, someone can start drowning; six minutes of not breathing causes brain damage. So, whether it's deep or shallow, in a pool or in the springs, follow these water guidelines.

- Designate a few people to supervise children at all times.
- Keep flotation devices or rescue poles in the pool area.
- Secure the pool, install child-proof gates and put a cover over the pool when it's not being used.
- Remove pool toys so children won't be drawn to them.
- Don't dive into shallow areas.

And remember, these safety tips don't apply just on holiday weekends. Make Memorial Day the first of many safe and fun-filled weekends this season by following these safety tips throughout the entire summer.

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"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"