

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

## COVID-19 Surveys Assessing the County's Response

COVID-19 is not over in our community as positive cases continue and our littlest children are not yet vaccinated.

But given the long duration of COVID-19, the Board of Supervisors requested a review of the county's response and services from January 2020 through December 2021. The first phase is already completed.

To help with the second phase of the review, two surveys are now available for you to help assess the county's response across the entire government (not just health) and for specific business-related interactions.

- The surveys will be open until July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- They can be translated into multiple languages by selecting the "translate" button on each survey.
- Paper surveys are available at regional [Fairfax County Public Library branches](#).



NOTE: We are only seeking feedback about Fairfax County Government, not the state or federal government. And for those who live in the independent cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, as well as the towns of Vienna, Clifton, and Herndon, we want to hear from you, too, because Fairfax County Government provides key services (but please only include Fairfax County Government experiences, not city or town services).

Community Survey Link: [COVID-19 Survey for Community Input - PublicInput.com \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicinput)

## Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades, and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, instead of using fireworks at home.

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands, and never light them indoors.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off in case of fire.
- Never use illegal fireworks.



National Safety Council: [Fireworks Safety Tips - National Safety Council \(nsc.org\)](https://www.nsc.org)

## Sparklers are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think. Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries.

Resources: U.S. Fire Administration Summer Fire Safety: [Summer fire safety outreach materials \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

## Summer Grilling Safety

There is nothing like outdoor grilling, it is one of the most popular ways to cook food. That said, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. If you don't feel comfortable using a grill, don't use one! Fire and gas can be dangerous. Follow these tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

- Only use grills outdoors. Grills should be used out in the open, away from homes, deck railings, and from under eaves and branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from a lit grill.
- Remove grease and fat by cleaning your grill after each use. Grease and fat can turn your grill into a tinderbox.
- If you're using a charcoal grill, make sure coals are completely cool before disposing of them. If they're not, they can burn you or burn the product you're using to dispose of them.
- If you're using a propane grill, and you're using it for the first time this season, check hoses and attachments for leaks. If you ever smell gas while you're cooking, turn off both the tank and the grill immediately.



Grilling Safety Info: [NFPA - Grilling safety](#)

## Extreme Heat Safety

Heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the United States, resulting in hundreds of fatalities each year. Heat can be very taxing on the body. Overexposure to heat and/or overexertion (too much exercise or effort) can trigger a heat-related illness.

Everyone is vulnerable to heat, but some more so than others, such as women who are pregnant, young children and infants, older adults, and people with chronic medical conditions.

How can I prepare for the warm weather to avoid heat related illnesses?

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to heat and sun.
- Drink plenty of water or electrolyte sports drinks.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day.
- Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, have a phone handy, and take frequent breaks.

What can you do if you feel woozy, overheated, or unwell? Take action immediately!

- Stop any strenuous activity and get somewhere cool.
- Drink something if you can.
- Cool your skin by taking a cold bath or holding anything cold against your body.
- Call someone for help or call 911 – do this before your condition compromises your critical thinking skills!



Join us on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 7 PM for our monthly webinar. This month's topic is Heat Safety. Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86128568783> or dial: 888-270-9936 (US Toll Free) Conference code: 952942.

Heat Safety Info: [Extreme Heat | Ready.gov](#)