

## news & notes

### HAVE A SAFE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

According to Prevent Blindness America, an organization dedicated to preventing eye injuries, there is no safe way for nonprofessionals to use fireworks. *It is safe to enjoy the splendor and excitement of fireworks only at a professional display.*

Prevent Blindness America says that fireworks statistics back up their position:

- The highest injury estimates were for firecrackers (24%), rockets (20%), and sparklers (18%).
- Almost half (48%) of the injuries were to children under the age of 15.
- Sparklers can heat up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt gold.
- Parts of the body most often injured are the eyes (30%), hands (29%), and head/face (17%).
- Data from the United States Eye Injury Registry show that bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than operators.
- There were 10 deaths from fireworks in 2000.

**What's the message?** *Do not let your child play with fireworks, say the experts at Prevent Blindness America. Do not use them yourself and keep family members away from those who do.*

### HAVE A SAFE VACATION

The whole point of vacations is to relax and have a good time. Planning for safety will keep your vacation enjoyable:

- Leave your house locked and looking occupied.
- Make sure your car is in safe working order before beginning a road trip.
- Avoid overexposure to the sun.
- Make sure you've gotten yourself in shape if you plan an active vacation.



# Union

# Fire Safety

July 2004

Campus Safety

Faculty/Staff

## Storm Fire Safety

Some types of fire related hazards present during and after a storm:

- Lightning associated with thunderstorms generates a variety of fire hazards. The power of lightnings electrical charge and intense heat can electrocute on contact, splitting trees and causing fires.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Appliances that have been exposed to water can short and become a fire hazard.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous.
- If your home is struck by lightning, get to a safe place and call 911. Remember, fires that are started by lightning will spread just as fast as any other fire.
- Be prepared for a storm. Purchasing a weather radio with an alert system will help you prepare for an oncoming storm. These items can be purchased from most mass retailers or any online store, such as amazon.com. Please contact me if you need need help finding one!

## Power Outage Fire Safety

- Be careful when using candles. Keep the flame away from combustible objects and out of the reach of children. Battery operated flashlights/lanterns are the best bet!
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home.
- All smoke alarms should be tested monthly. All batteries should be replaced with new ones at least once a year.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of debris for easy access by the fire department.