

Fireworks and electrical safety tips for the holiday

The Fourth of July is a time for celebration, community and of course, fireworks. But with the fun comes the need for caution. At Southeastern Indiana REMC, your safety is our top priority, especially when it comes to outdoor activities that involve electricity. Whether you're lighting sparklers or plugging in decorations, keep these reminders in mind to protect yourself and your loved ones this Independence Day.

Each year, thousands of injuries are caused by fireworks. Most can be prevented with a little planning and a lot of caution. If you're planning your own fireworks display:

- Only light fireworks in a clear, open area away from homes, dry grass and power lines.
- Always keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of fire.
- Never relight a "dud." Wait 20 minutes, then soak it in water.
- Keep fireworks away from children, and make sure adults handling fireworks are sober and attentive.

Remember, even sparklers burn at temperatures above 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit; hot enough to cause third-degree burns. Always supervise children closely and consider glow sticks or light-up toys as safer alternatives.



Outdoor parties often involve lights, fans, sound systems and other devices that require power. Before you plug in, take a few precautions:

- Use only outdoor-rated extension cords and decorations.
- Keep all cords and electrical items away from water, including pools, sprinklers or coolers.
- Never overload an outlet or power strip.
- Avoid running cords across sidewalks or driveways where they could become a tripping hazard or be damaged by vehicles.
- Check for damaged wires before use and replace frayed or cracked cords immediately.



If you plan to use a portable generator for your event, never operate it indoors or in a garage, and be sure it's placed at least 20 feet from any open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.



Fireworks and aerial devices should always be used far from overhead power lines. A misfire could result in contact with live wires, which can be deadly. When planning your celebration, make sure you have plenty of space and always look up before you light.

If you're planning a large outdoor setup that includes lighting or sound equipment, consider calling 811 before you dig for tents or stakes. This free service will help identify underground utilities, keeping everyone safe and connected.

The Fourth of July should be filled with fun, not emergency room visits. By taking a few precautions and staying aware of your surroundings, you can enjoy a safe, memorable holiday with friends, family and neighbors. From all of us at SEI REMC, have a safe and happy Independence Day!