



Social Gathering and Recreational Fire Safety

Life can be stressful. Between work, school and numerous other commitments in life, sometimes we just need to get together with friends and family to have a little fun. However, when we do this, we tend to let our guard down when it comes to fire safety. Add alcohol into the mix and you can potentially have a real recipe for disaster.

Best Practices

- There has historically been a direct link between fire deaths and the consumption of alcohol. In many cases where fire deaths occurred on college campuses, alcohol was a factor. Any time you are impaired, you might sleep through a smoke alarm or fail to react quickly enough to escape. It is important that you drink responsibly. Drink only if you are of legal age and in an area where alcohol is permitted, but do not drink to the point where your judgement is impaired. It is also important to never drink while you are cooking or smoking, just in case you do have one too many drinks and are not 100% on top of your game. For additional information refer to the university [Alcohol and Drug Policy](#).
- Follow all fire safety best practices for cooking, electrical, heating, smoking, and more. These can also be found on the CMU EHS website.
- Fire escapes and stairwells should never be used as a hangout as these areas must always remain clear and unobstructed.
- Limit the use of combustible decorations as much as possible and never hang decorations in hallways, stairways, on any labeled fire door or around any exits. If these were to catch on fire, it could potentially prevent you from being able to escape.
- Keep pets or children away from areas with heat producing appliances such as kitchens, grills or space heaters.

Recreational Fires and Fireworks

Due to the many fire hazards associated with live flames, CMU does not allow recreational fires or any other open burning on any of our properties at this time. This unfortunately also includes the use of any fireworks (including sparklers) or other pyrotechnic devices.

However, we are in the process of developing a program with our campus partners that would allow for the use of recreational fires and the issuance of a "burn permit". While we understand that this may be an inconvenience to some, it is critical that we all work together to maintain a fire safe campus.



Safety concern, training request, or other inquiry?
Reach out to the [Environmental Health and Safety Department](#) today!
safety@andrew.cmu.edu
412-268-8182