



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 Environmental Health and Safety (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 animals or children away from areas with heat producing appliances such as kitchens, grills or space heaters.
- Submit all requests for the use of outdoor grills, recreational fire pits or propane space heaters to Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). These must be approved by EHS prior to use.

Fireworks and Pyrotechnics

Due to the many fire hazards associated with the use of fireworks and other pyrotechnics, CMU does not allow the personal use of these devices for any social gathering or recreational event.



Safety concern, training request, or other inquiry?
Reach out to the **[Environmental Health and Safety Department](#)** today!
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