



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Summer is in full swing and we are getting an extra day off after the 4th of July. So, relax and enjoy it! Here are some awareness facts and tips for keeping those summer fun activities safe.

SWIMMING

An estimated 60% of all drownings are witnessed, because people are unable to identify the four signs of a drowning victim:

- Head back (bobs up and down above/below the surface).
- Mouth open.
- No sound.
- Arms outstretched moving simultaneously in an above-the-water, up and down stroke that appears as if they are slapping or playing in the water.

Watch the kids! It only takes an average of 20 seconds for a child to drown. Don't be distracted by reading, scrolling through your phone or visiting with other adults.

SUNSCREEN

Did you know that sunscreen expires? Bottles have an expiration date — and for good reason. Old sunblock may not work as well as a fresh tube because the chemical formulas can change over time, especially with exposure to sunlight and heat. The FDA suggests keeping sunscreens out of direct sun and away from excessive heat. Take them out of the car with you; keep it in the shade or stash in a cooler.

If you've got old containers hanging around for a year or more, it may also signal you're not applying enough to begin with.

BOATING

Boat drivers wear the kill switch lanyard! In case of being thrown overboard, this will instantly turn off the boat motor to keep it from possibly turning back and running over you or other boaters.

A life jacket only works if it's worn. WEAR IT! If you will not wear it for yourself, then wear it for those who love you.

GRILLING

Can you guess which holiday is the most popular for barbecuing? Independence Day takes the lead with 76%.

Backyard grilling can be a food safety minefield. Use separate platters, tools, and utensils for raw and cooked foods and never let them mingle.

Is it really safe to cook on public grills? Yes, it's absolutely safe to cook on well-used public grills. Always start by cleaning the grill grates to scrape off any carbon or stuck-on food and remove any ashes or debris from the bottom. The fire and high heat will kill off any germs or bacteria that might be on the grill, so as long as you get that fire rip-roaring hot, you'll be okay.

Propane is the most common type of fuel for gas grills. Propane tanks should always be stored outside. It's OK to leave the tank under the grill as long as it's disconnected and covered with a grill cover. If you move the grill into a garage or shed, the tank needs to stay outside and keep it out of direct sunlight

For more info contact:

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Sources:

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