

FASNY offers lifesaving fire safety tips to keep your friends & family safe during July 4th celebrations

BY THE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

As vaccinated New Yorkers begin to gather for nicer weather, many will be hosting barbecues and parties for the upcoming Fourth of July. These holiday celebrations can pose serious safety hazards due to an increase in firework use and outdoor cooking. The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) offers some key safety tips for your friends and family to follow this Fourth of July.

"The warmer weather will motivate New Yorkers to break out their grills, BBQs and enjoy Independence Day activities as more people venture outside," FASNY President John P. Farrell said. "Home fire safety doesn't stop at the door, since there are still many fire risks outside the home. We want all residents to stay safe as they celebrate this Fourth of July. We also remind everyone to continue to follow applicable social distancing rules to keep their families and guests, safe."

Fourth of July celebrations can cause a great number of emergencies. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), from 2014-18, an average of 19,700 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills. Gas grills were involved in an average of 10,600 home fires per year, including 3,900 structure fires and 4,900 outdoor fires annually.

Additionally, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2020 reported fireworks caused an estimated 10,000 injuries and 19,500 fires annually. Between June and July 2019, 7,300 firework-related injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms with sparklers accounting for almost one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.

"Rather than take the risk of having you or a loved one get hurt, FASNY is urging New Yorkers to either attend a professional fireworks display in their town or county or watch a televised one," Farrell said.

You can also help keep everyone safe by following the important tips below:



Cagle Cartoons Inc.

Tips from the NFPA and FASNY:

- For Grills:**
- ✓ Propane and charcoal barbecue grills should only be used outdoors;
 - ✓ The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under leaves and overhanging branches;
 - ✓ Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the grill area;
 - ✓ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill;
 - ✓ Never leave your grill unattended while in use;
 - ✓ Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it; and
 - ✓ Always use food-approved fire

starters for wood grills and smokers.

For Fireworks:

- ✓ Attend a local, professional fireworks show;
- ✓ Livestream a virtual fireworks show;
- ✓ Use glow sticks instead of sparklers;
- ✓ Resist the temptation to get close to the firing site – the best view of a professional fireworks display is from a quarter of a mile or more away;
- ✓ Do not possess or shoot off fireworks on your own. Besides risking injury to yourself and the crowd watching the demonstration, you will be breaking the law; and
- ✓ Do not pick up or attempt to relight used or "dud" fireworks – they may still cause serious burns or injury.

Founded in 1872, the Firemen's Association of the State of New York represents the interests of the more than 85,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in New York. For more information, visit www.fasny.com.

JULY 4 FIREWORKS SCHEDULE

remember.

For those looking for fireworks displays around Western New York this weekend, it might be a bit trickier than most years, as some towns and cities have chosen to forego usual plans as the pandemic continues. Nevertheless, the Tribune/Sentinel has you covered with a list of confirmed locations.

Lewiston

•A grand fireworks spectacular will begin at dusk Sunday, July 4, above the Richard F. Soluri Park in the Village of Lewiston. The show will be visible from Center Street, Lewiston hill, and south-side streets.

In case of inclement weather, a rain date is set for Monday, July 5.

City of Niagara Falls

•City of Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino announced the return of fireworks at Hyde Park at dusk Sunday, July 4. This return comes after the suspension of fireworks due to COVID-19 regulations and safety precautions in 2020.

Restaino said, "The City of Niagara Falls is proud to be able to resume the fireworks display at Hyde Park on our nation's birthday. With the celebrations seen throughout the state as pandemic restrictions are eased, it seems fitting to bring back the fireworks at Hyde Park."

•As part of the Fourth of July festivities at Hyde Park, the Niagara Power will play the Elmira Pioneers at 6 p.m. at Sal Maglie Stadium. As part of the celebration, fans attending the game will have the option to come out on the field after the game to view the fireworks display sponsored by the Joe Ceconi Chrysler Complex. Admission tickets for the game will be sold for \$1. Concessions will also be available throughout the entire duration of this event.

The Niagara Power is comprised of collegiate baseball players from the region and around the country, representing some of the best college teams in the

country. They come to Niagara Falls each summer to attempt to hone their skills and gain attention of Major League Baseball scouts.

The Niagara Power was founded in 2007 and has called Sal Maglie Stadium home. In 2021, the team moved to the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League (PGCBL), a premier wood bat collegiate league in New York and one of the best in the country, which has seen double-digit players drafted each year from the league by Major League Baseball.

Niagara Falls & Salamanca

•Seneca Resorts & Casinos is ready to celebrate Independence Day in grand style, with fireworks displays at both Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino and Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino.

Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino will light up the sky Friday, July 2, with fireworks expected to start at approximately 9:40 p.m. Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino will conduct its fireworks extravaganza on Sunday, July 4, also at approximately 9:40 p.m. Due to capacity restrictions, there will not be public viewing areas established on-site, but the displays will be visible from the surrounding area.

"We are incredibly excited to celebrate Independence Day with our guests, neighbors and employees again, especially after the year we have all endured," said Kevin Nephew, president and CEO of Seneca Gaming Corp. "Our fireworks shows were a summer highlight for many years, and we expect this year's displays at Seneca Niagara and Seneca Allegany to be as amazing and enjoyable as ever. We hope they make a great way to start and end everyone's holiday weekend celebrations."

More information is available by calling 1-877-8-SENECA (1-877-873-6322) or visiting SenecaNiagaraCasino.com or SenecaAlleganyCasino.com.

Town of Niagara

•Fireworks will be on display at

dusk on Saturday, July 3, at Veteran's Memorial Park, 7000 Joe Rotella Way. They will close out the town's "Pride in the Park" event, which features live music beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing into the evening.

Hamlet of Olcott

•Olcott will celebrate with 10 p.m. fireworks over Lake Ontario. Viewing areas include Krull Park, the Lakeview Village Shoppes, behind the lighthouse, and the Olcott Yacht Club.

Ransomville

•On Friday, July 2, UBreak-Fix, Hebel Sales & Service, Scott Joy Trucking and Hy-Tech Concrete, will present a fireworks extravaganza. A full card of Krown Undercoating Modifieds, Investor's Service Sportsman, KiPo Motors Street Stocks, Sunflowers of Sanborn Mini Stocks, and Kevin's Carpet Cleaning Novice Sportsman will also bring the roar to begin Independence Day Weekend. Pit gates will open at 5 p.m. with grandstands opening at 6 p.m. Racing will begin at 7:15 p.m. For those unable to be in attendance, the races will be streamed live on www.dirttrackdigest.tv.

Ransomville Speedway is located on Braley Road. For more information, visit www.ransomvillespeedway.com.

Tonawandas

•The City of Tonawanda will hold a fireworks display at 9 p.m. Monday, July 5, at Tonawanda Island (Niagara and Gibson streets). Viewing is at Niawanda Park, 200 Niagara St. – across the river from the Grand Island Radisson.

•The City of North Tonawanda will not have its own fireworks display this year.

Town of Wheatfield

•Fireworks will be on display at dusk July 4 at the Town of Wheatfield Oppenheim Park, 2713 Niagara Falls Blvd.

•Find more fireworks listings online at the Tribune/Sentinel website, www.wnypapers.com.

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