



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Serving Washington Since 1901

For Immediate Release

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

Date: August 26, 2024

Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Mikaila Hayes

Phone: (360) 596-3904

Email: fpbio@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @WaFireMarshal

Labor Day Weekend Safety

Olympia- Labor Day weekend is a time for fun and relaxation, but we must remain vigilant about fire safety. Increased outdoor activities can also increase the risk of fire incidents. As Labor Day weekend approaches, the State Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents to prioritize fire safety during their celebrations.

In 2023, Washington fire departments responded to 10,418 incidents over Labor Day weekend, resulting in over \$2 million in total losses and three fatalities. Of these incidents, rescue and emergency medical services were the leading incident type and fire incidents resulted in the most dollar loss.

The State Fire Marshal's Office urges residents to follow these safety precautions:

- Follow the burn bans or restrictions in effect in the area you live or visit.
- When barbecuing, always use the grill outdoors and away from structures and overhanging branches. Keep a fire extinguisher, bucket of water, or garden hose nearby. Never leave the grill unattended while in use. Clean the grill regularly to prevent grease build-up, which can cause flare-ups.
- Ensure your vehicle's exhaust system is in good condition to prevent sparks that could ignite dry vegetation. Never park vehicles on dry grass as the hot exhaust system can start a fire. Avoid using equipment in dry, grassy areas to reduce the risk of sparks igniting a fire.
- When transporting recreational equipment such as trailers or boats, be sure to secure equipment properly and check that nothing is dragging on the ground, such as chains.
- Consumer fireworks should not be part of your celebration as Washington State law does not allow their use during this time period.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3904.

###

The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/