



# Safety and Environmental Newsletter

July 2022 — 123<sup>rd</sup> Edition

5 page Issue



## Plastic Free July

Choose plastic free options when available. Use reusable shopping bags. Buy in bulk. Buy items wrapped in paper. Eat in more, dine in more, takeout less. Carry reusable bottles, cups, utensils, and straws.



On **Chicken Day**, think twice about tossing out those plastic containers. They are perfect to be reused: store your leftovers from dinner, pack lunches, and pack snacks on the go. They are dishwasher safe and micro-wave safe. Keep reusing reusable plastic and keep it out of the trash.

## Energy Household Tip:

Unplug unused appliances. Plugged in items while not in-use can draw single watt energy costs of about \$1.00 to power annually. Depending on the amount of unused plugged in appliances and electronics, it could be costing you an extra \$100-\$200 annually.



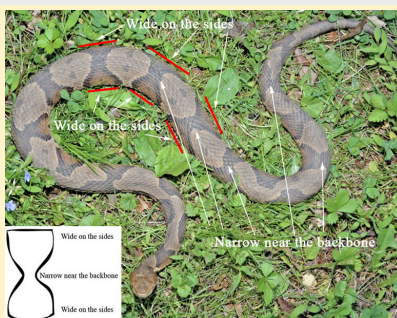
## July: World Snake Day

Delmarva Peninsula all have one venomous snake in common, the Eastern Copperhead.

Normal seasonal activity is during the months of April through October. Average length 24-36". Both images show color variation and the hour glass banding. Juveniles have yellow tipped tails. Will remain venomous for hours after death.

Can be confused with northern water snakes.

If bitten, stay calm, take a photo if possible. Remember the markings and call 911 or local emergency number immediately.



## Consumer Confidence Report

WFF released the 2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The report was made available online and posted throughout buildings.

To find out more about last years water quality, please visit

<https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-WFF/program-areas-drinking-water>



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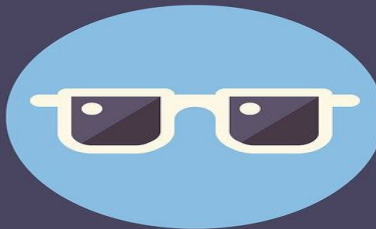
UV SAFETY  
AWARENESS MONTH

## SUN SAFETY

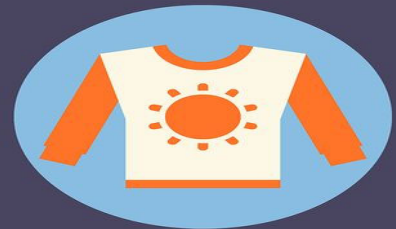
SUMMER SKIN PROTECTION



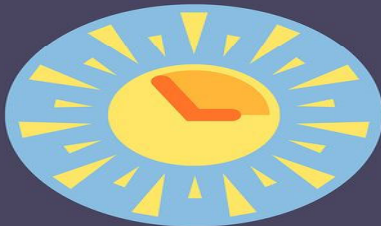
**WEAR  
BROAD HAT**



**USE SUNGLASSES**



**WEAR PROTECTIVE  
CLOTHING**



**AVOID SUN BETWEEN  
11 AM AND 3 PM**



**USE SUNSCREEN**



**DRINK MORE  
WATER**



**REFLECTION  
CAUTION**



**SEEK SHADE**



**AVOID DIRECT  
SUNLIGHT**





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Motor homes, campers, and recreational vehicles are used for living and traveling. Each year, fires in them cause deaths, injuries, and millions of dollars in damages. Fires can start in the kitchen. They can start in the engine area. Sometimes the fires are electrical. With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent these fires from happening.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms. Make sure they work.
- Stay in the kitchen while you cook. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.
- Refrigerators, furnaces, ovens and stovetops use propane. Check them for leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- Have your propane system inspected to make sure it still works properly.
- Know two ways out. Make sure windows open easily.
- Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan.
- Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping.
- Before setting up a campfire, make sure it is allowed.
- If campfires are allowed, they need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Have your vehicle serviced by a qualified mechanic.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board. Only adults who know how to operate it should use it. Only use it if the fire is small and can be contained. Make sure everyone else is leaving. Make sure someone is calling the fire department.



## Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. You cannot see it. You cannot taste it. You cannot smell it. CO poisoning can result from leaks in the exhaust. It can happen because of improper use of appliances. Sometimes CO comes from another vehicle. Make sure you have a working CO alarm.

## FACT

When the vehicle is used as a structure, the most common area for these fires to start is the kitchen or cooking area. This is followed by the engine area, running gear, or wheel area. Check for safety inside and outside of the vehicle.



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo





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## Recreational Vehicle Fire and Life Safety Practices



Whether you are heading out to the campsite, traveling cross-country or living in a recreational vehicle (RV), it's important to know about the fire and carbon monoxide (CO) hazards present in these moveable structures.

### Recreational vehicle fires

From 2018 to 2020, there were an estimated average of 4,200 RV fires reported to U.S. fire departments each year. These fires result in an estimated 15 deaths, 125 injuries and \$60,300,000 in property loss.

Most of these fires occur:

- Between the hours of 2 and 3 p.m.
- During the months of May through August.
- On Fridays and Saturdays.

### Carbon monoxide in recreational vehicles

CO is an odorless, tasteless, invisible killer that can readily build up within the small area of an RV and cause severe illness and possibly death. Improper use of generators is a leading cause of CO poisoning. Malfunctioning gas-fed appliances are an additional source of CO poisoning.

### Life-saving tips for the RV user:

- Check propane supply lines for kinks or damage. Test all fitting connections with a gas leak detection device.
- Make sure generator exhaust is pointed away and downwind of the RV.
- Stay in the cooking area when preparing food. If you leave, turn off the burner.
- Have a portable fire extinguisher on board that you can easily reach. Adults should take a brief training course on how to properly use an extinguisher. Remember the acronym P.A.S.S. — Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.
- Keep doors and windows clear for escape and make sure they open easily. Practice a fire escape plan with everyone staying in the RV.
- Don't overload the electrical outlets. Using too many electrical appliances at the same time can cause a fire.
- Have a trained technician thoroughly inspect your RV at least once a year.



For more information and free resources, visit [usfa.fema.gov](https://usfa.fema.gov).



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## Campfire Safety

Sitting under the stars by a crackling fire has its appeal. It's where stories are told, sing-a-longs happen, and meals are cooked over an open flame. Campfires bring family and friends together. But campfire mishaps can cause injuries. With a few safety tips, you can prevent these accidents.

### SAFETY AROUND THE FIRE

- Before setting up a campfire, be sure it is permitted. Check with your local fire department.
- If campfires are permitted, they need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn.
- Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Avoid burning on windy, dry days. It is easier for open burning to spread out of control when it is windy and dry.
- Watch children while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire.
- Attend to the campfire at all times. A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a damaging fire.
- Keep a campfire small which is easier to control.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- Always have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to put out the fire. Make sure to put it completely out before leaving the site.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.



### ROAST WITH CARE

If roasting marshmallows, help young children. Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can cause burns.

### FACT

Campfire accidents send thousands of people to emergency rooms with burn injuries every year.



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