

LABOR DAY SAFETY

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Labor Day represents the unofficial end of summer and with it comes a number of activities, fairs, parties and other events over the long weekend. Safety is the most important and most overlooked part of any end of summer bash. While no one Labor Day activity is particularly unsafe, the combination of crowds, alcohol, increased travel and being around water can add an element of danger to your holiday plans. The Bazetta Fire Department would like you to think about safety and taking necessary precautions so your Labor Day weekend activities are both fun and safe.

Labor Day Safety around Water

Whether you're spending the day at the lake or your own swimming pool, safety is critical. Make sure young or inexperienced swimmers have floatation devices or life vests to use while in or around the water. When taking children to a boating lake, make sure they understand which areas are for boats and which areas are for swimming or floating on rafts.

If children are being difficult, turn safety into a game and hold drills for things like who can get into their life vest the fastest.

Please remember that the water level on Mosquito Lake is unusually low and boating in certain areas can be hazardous due to underwater hazards. Please exercise extra caution if you plan to be boating on Mosquito Lake not only on Labor Day weekend, but at any time until the water levels return to a normal level.

Labor Day Safety on the Road

No matter where you're going, safety on the road is an area you can't afford to ignore because people die during holiday travel each year. To stay safe on the road, try to avoid distractions as best you can. Even if you'd normally be able to eat a snack or take a cell phone call while driving, it's best to avoid these things during peak holiday travel times. More people on the road often increase the accident potential for an otherwise safe driver.

Labor Day Safety at Home

You're not immune from mishaps even when spending the holiday at home. Be sure to keep food items away from the edge of counters and tables, as a falling food item has the potential to injure and burn. It's also a smart idea to instruct children to stay away from the grill while you barbecue. If you have a bonfire, make sure you are using split, cut firewood that has been seasoned and you do not use any flammable liquids as a fire starter. With children, and adults alike, not paying attention while playing and

participating in sporting activities can lead to cuts, bruises, fractures or medical emergencies. Please know your limitations while not sacrificing fun either.

General Labor Day Safety Tips

Remember, even if you aren't a drinker, chances are good that someone else on the road or at the lake is. As the day and the weekend goes on, become more conscientious of those around you. It only takes a second for someone with impaired judgment to veer into your lane on the highway or enter the swimming area of the lake with their jet ski. While being paranoid isn't a part of Labor Day safety, staying aware is.

Following these tips will make your holiday weekend a safe and happy one and help you avoid a visit from your local firefighters and paramedics. On behalf of Fire Chief Dennis Lewis and the entire staff at the Bazetta Fire Department, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Labor Day Weekend. Please celebrate responsibly and have a designated driver.