



Lakewood Fire District No. 1

733 Cedar Bridge Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Purim Fire Safety

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PURIM FIRE SAFETY

Purim is a joyous occasion and should be enjoyed as such. In order to celebrate in a happy and safe manner, the Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners in conjunction with Fire Chief Jonathan Yahr, Fire Prevention Coordinator Jacob Woolf, and the members of the Lakewood Fire Department, offer the following tips.

PURIM ‘FUN’ and ACTIVITIES: Parents should be especially mindful of and know the whereabouts and activities of their children at all times. Parents, teachers, and other role models should warn children against playing with matches, lighters, and fireworks. Care should be taken to keep children away from fire and other heat sources.

FIREWORKS: Much has been said about the illegality and obvious danger associated with aerial fireworks and without exception, **these should absolutely be off limits!** For people who decide to buy and use non-aerial fireworks, the Lakewood Fire Department provides the following safety guidelines:

Small, Non-Aerial Fireworks Safety Guidelines

- Only buy from reputable outlets.
- Don't buy if the packaging is damaged or appears tampered with.
- Don't use or try to fix broken or "dud" fireworks.
- While non-aerial fireworks may be legal, they can still burn you. Temperatures of one sparkler can reach about 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit and are not intended as toys for children.
- Never use fireworks indoors.
- Always have water handy and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never relight a "dud" firework.
- Wait 20 minutes to properly dispose of fireworks.

Small, Non-Aerial Fireworks Safe Disposal

- Completely soak used fireworks and "dud" fireworks in a bucket of water and let soak overnight.

- Double-wrap-soaked fireworks in plastic wrap or a plastic bag to help keep them from drying out.
- Place wrapped bags in regular household garbage.

CAP GUNS and ROLL CAPS: We have been made aware of serious Purim injuries caused by roll caps igniting in pants pockets. In these situations, rolls of caps were placed into pants pockets and when the child placed their hand into their pocket the caps rubbed together, ignited, and caused significant burns to the hand and leg. Do not allow your child to store rolls of caps in their pocket. However, and even better, **AVOID** providing these items to your children altogether, especially since a cap gun may be mistaken for a real weapon and result in disastrous consequences.

FLAMMABLE COSTUMES: When purchasing costumes, masks, beards and wigs, look for flame-resistant fabrics that are labeled "Flame Resistant." Flame-resistant fabrics will resist burning and should extinguish quickly. To minimize the risk of contact with candles and other fire sources, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts. Review, the principles of "STOP, DROP and ROLL" which are simple: **STOP** – do not run if your clothes catch on fire. **DROP** – to the ground and cover your face. **ROLL** – continue to roll to smother the fire.

MASKS: Some masks can cause overheating or difficulty breathing if worn for an extended time or during prolonged activity and playing. Masks can also inhibit vision, making them dangerous to wear when walking and especially when crossing the street.

AEROSOL SPRAY CANS: These can be dangerous and cause injury if sprayed anywhere near the face. Since aerosols are stored under pressure, it is imperative spray cans are kept away from heat sources to avoid the possibility of them exploding.

STOVE/OVEN USE: Designate someone to remain in the kitchen and keep an eye on the stove or oven as well as on the kitchen activities in general. Unattended cooking remains a leading cause of home fires in the United States. When cooking, roll up your sleeves and avoid wearing loose fitting clothing that can easily catch fire. Do not reach over burners and other hot surfaces. Keep all flammable items (dishtowels, curtains, etc.) at least three feet from the range top. Always turn pot handles inward to prevent young children from pulling down a hot pan. When frying, it is important to keep children away from the stove and other cooking elements. Use the back burners so they are out of the reach of children. When reheating fried foods, be careful of the oil that is in the food as it reheats, since it can cause severe burns. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid only if it is possible. Do not use water to extinguish a grease fire as this will just increase the size of the fire. Do Not Hesitate to Immediately Call 911.

CANDLES: Candles should be kept in safe stable holders and on sturdy nonflammable surfaces, at least three feet away from flammable materials and in a location where they cannot be knocked over or something can fall on top of them. Do not leave children unattended in a room with lit candles, and do not display lighted candles in windows or near exits in case you need these to escape. Never leave burning candles unattended and keep matches, lighters and lit objects away from children. Remember, as the evening wears on and we all get 'leibidig' the chances of improperly placed candles knocking over is heightened.

MOST IMPORTANTLY: Remember that smoke detectors provide early warning of a fire, allowing extra time to escape and as a result, substantially reducing the risk of injury and/or death in a fire. Smoke detectors should be located outside each separate sleeping area and on every floor of one's home. In case of fire הלילה **DO NOT HESITATE** to call the Fire Department. Dial 911 immediately, even before calling Hatzolah. This will give the Fire Department optimal notice and prevent a delayed response. Never attempt to extinguish a fire yourself. Remember, even when unsure, **ALWAYS** call. Don't wait until it's too late!