

Chemex Safety Minute

Labor Day Safety

Introduction

While holidays are typically a joyous time spent with friends and family, they can unintentionally pose risks. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people are injured every year due to preventable accidents. Hazards on the road, grilling/BBQ, boating, and alcohol top the list as the most common causes of Labor Day accidents.

Hazards of the Road

The National Safety Council reports over 450 deaths on the road each Labor Day. Labor day is the second deadliest day on the road, right behind Memorial Day. Distracted driving includes anything you do that takes your mind and eyes off the road. Make the commitment to yourself and your family that you will leave your phone alone and focus on the road while driving. Give yourself plenty of extra time to get where you are going. Always preform a safety check on your vehicle before heading out. Last and most importantly, don't drink and drive. Drunk driving accounts for 40% of all driving related fatalities over Labor Day Weekend.

Grilling/BBQ

Propane and lighter fluid are the cause of numerous incidents every holiday season. Instead of using lighter fluid, purchase wax or electric grill starters. Not only is an electric fire starter safer, it will save you money in the long run. When lighting a propane grill, make sure the lid is open and that you turn off the propane if it doesn't light right away. Keep your grill away from structures and keep children away from the grill.

Boating

Boating can be an exciting outing for the whole family, but it doesn't come without risks. Taking these precautions can help you to remain safe this holiday season. Before you access the dock, make sure each person has a life jacket. Everyone should wear a life jacket the entire time on the water, especially children. In most drownings, the victim had a life jacket - they just weren't wearing it. If you are an inexperienced boater, familiarize yourself with boater safety, such as passing rules and night-boating before heading out. If your boat or Jet Ski is equipped with a kill switch/safety lanyard, use it. If you are planning on having alcohol on the boat be sure to have a designated sober operator. Whether you are on a boat, at the beach, or just around the pool, always practice the buddy system. Don't drink and operate a boat; alcohol is involved in 70% of all boating fatalities over Labor Day Weekend.

TO DRIVE OR NOT TO DRIVE?

Have you ever heard someone say, "I know I'm good to drive"? Chances are they have had too much to drink to be on the road. If you will be drinking and know you will need to travel, plan ahead and arrange a designated driver.

Ridesharing services such as Lyft or Uber are a great option and very cost-effective. The average cost per ride is between 1-2 dollars per mile. It's easy to download either app to your phone and create an account. Once this is done, a safe ride home is only a few phone taps away.

Click either of the links below to sign up for a Lyft or Uber account.

LYFT

UBER

