



Press Release
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Castro County Healthcare Encourages Safe and Joyful Holiday Celebrations

Shares July 4th and Shares Fireworks Safety Tips

DIMMITT, Texas (June 24, 2024) — As the Fourth of July approaches, Castro County Healthcare invites the community to celebrate the historic significance of Independence Day while emphasizing the importance of safety during the festivities. CEO Elisha Rosier shares insights into why we celebrate this pivotal American holiday and provides crucial safety tips to prevent accidents and grass fires during fireworks celebrations.

Independence Day, celebrated every July 4th, commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This document marked the colonies' decision to assert their freedom from British rule, establishing the foundation for the United States as a sovereign nation. The holiday serves as a time to honor the values of liberty, equality, and democracy that define the American spirit.

“Elisha Rosier, CEO of Castro County Healthcare, reflects, ‘Independence Day is more than just a celebration; it's a tribute to the courage and determination that shaped our nation's history. It's a time to reflect on our shared journey and the freedoms we cherish.’”

A Historical Glimpse into Independence Day Celebrations

The tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July began soon after the Declaration of Independence was signed. The first official celebration in 1777 included fireworks, parades, and public readings of the Declaration. These early festivities set the tone for how Americans would come to celebrate their independence—with joy, patriotism, and a sense of community.

“From its inception, the Fourth of July has been a day of unity and celebration,” Rosier noted. “It's a time when we come together to honor our past and embrace the spirit of freedom that defines us as a nation.”

Community and Celebration: Continuing the Tradition

Today, the Fourth of July is marked by vibrant celebrations across the country. In Dimmitt and surrounding areas, families and friends gather for barbecues, parades, and fireworks displays. These activities not only celebrate our nation's independence but also foster a sense of community and togetherness.

“The joy of Independence Day lies in our shared celebrations,” said Rosier. “Whether watching fireworks, enjoying a parade, or spending time with loved ones, it's a day to celebrate the unity and diversity of our community.”

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Holiday Safety Measures

As families and friends gather for fireworks, barbecues, and various outdoor activities, Castro County Healthcare urges everyone to prioritize safety to ensure a memorable and injury-free holiday.

“We want everyone to enjoy their Fourth of July festivities, but safety must come first,” said Rosier. “Simple precautions can make a big difference in preventing accidents and keeping our celebrations joyful and safe.”

Fireworks Safety

While fireworks are a central part of Independence Day festivities, they can also pose significant risks, particularly in dry conditions that can lead to grass fires. Castro County Healthcare urges the community to follow these safety tips to prevent accidents and ensure a safe celebration:

- **Attend Professional Fireworks Displays:** The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional show. These displays are not only spectacular but also managed by trained professionals who prioritize safety.
- **Use Fireworks in Safe Areas:** If using consumer fireworks, choose a clear area away from buildings, dry grass, and other flammable materials. Have a bucket of water or a hose nearby to extinguish any accidental fires.
- **Light Fireworks One at a Time:** Only light one firework at a time and keep a safe distance after lighting. Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- **Supervise Children Closely:** Fireworks should never be handled by children. Always supervise them and keep them at a safe distance from any fireworks activities.

“Fireworks add magic to our celebrations but come with responsibilities,” said Rosier. “Ensuring they are used safely and preventing potential fires is crucial, especially in our dry, rural areas.”

Grilling Safety

Barbecues are another beloved Fourth of July tradition. To ensure safe grilling, Castro County Healthcare advises keeping the grill clean and in good condition, positioning it well away from structures, and never leaving it unattended while in use.

“Grilling is a wonderful way to enjoy the holiday, but it’s important to keep safety in mind,” Rosier explained. “Always supervise the grill, keep it clean, and ensure it’s placed in a safe, open area.”

Sun and Heat Safety

With the summer heat in full swing, protecting against sunburn and heat-related illnesses is crucial.

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Applying sunscreen with at least SPF 30, staying hydrated, and taking breaks in shaded areas can help prevent sunburn and heat exhaustion.

“Our commitment to the community’s health and safety is unwavering,” Rosier stated. “While we join in the holiday celebrations, our Emergency Department will be available around the clock to ensure that medical care is accessible whenever it’s needed.” In observance of the holiday, Medical Center of Dimmitt and Welch Rehab will be closed on July 4th. Both facilities will resume normal operations on July 5th

About Castro County Healthcare

Founded in 1963, Castro County Healthcare provides healthcare for Castro County, Texas residents and the surrounding region. Anchored by Plains Memorial Hospital, the healthcare system offers many medical services, including 24-hour emergency care, advanced radiology services, including CT scanning and MRIs, outpatient lab, physical and occupational therapy, swing bed services, patient education, and more. For additional information, please visit www.plainsmemorial.com.

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