



# Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Encourages Safety during July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)** – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office asks all citizens to be vigilant and safe during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. With increased traffic, use of fireworks and families enjoying the pool or waterways, Sheriff McFadden would like to share the following safety tips:

### Traffic Safety

- The law requires motorists slow down and approach cautiously when an emergency vehicle is stopped on the shoulder of the roadway with its lights flashing
- Always shift your attention every few seconds, constantly scanning the road ahead and behind you.
- When passing an automobile, always glance at the ground beside the front wheel of the car you intend to pass. You will know instantly if the car is about to veer – giving you an extra few seconds to respond.
- Always signal your intentions with your brake lights, turn signals, horn and/or headlines so that other drivers will see you well before you change course.
- Never follow too close. Remember that, as your speed increases, it takes you substantially longer to stop.

### Fireworks Safety

- Never give fireworks to small children, and always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- Stay at least 500ft away from displays and keep a supply of water close-by as a precaution.
- Make sure the person lighting fireworks always wears eye protection.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures, or flammable materials.

## **Swimming Safety**

- If no lifeguard is on duty, do not let children swim unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult who knows lifesaving techniques and first aid.
- Look around the pool area to be certain lifesaving devices are readily available for emergency use.
- Be sure covers are installed on all drains of a swimming pool or in a wading pool. The suction created by the pool's circulating pumps can be very dangerous unless it is reduced by covers.
- Take frequent breaks (about once an hour) where everyone gets out of the water, drinks water, reapplies water resistant sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) and rests.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Go to the edge of the pool and scan the entire pool, bottom, and surface, as well as the surrounding pool area.
- To reduce the risk of eye, ear, nose or throat infection from contaminated water, swim only in pools in which water quality is properly maintained. The water should appear crystal clear, be continuously circulated, and be maintained at a level that allows free overflow into the gutter or skimmer. There should not be a strong odor of ammonia or chlorine.

Sheriff McFadden said, "Please enjoy the time with friends and loved ones responsibly. We want everyone to be safe. Following these precautions will help families in Mecklenburg County remain safe not only this holiday weekend but throughout the entire summer."

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