

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor's Weekly Radio Address Remembering Safety on the Fourth of July Weekend

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This weeks message focuses on the holiday weekend. The Governor urges New Jerseyans to remember those who fought for the country's freedom. Whitman also encourages safety and responsibility during travel and holiday festivities.

Attached is a text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Radio Message for July 2 Independence Day Weekend

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman. As we head into the weekend, I'm sure many of you will be spending time with family and friends celebrating the last Independence Day of the century.

On July 4, 1776, our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming their commitment to uphold the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Ever since, the Fourth of July has been a day of inspiration and a day to remind us that our country is as great as its people.

The Fourth of July also represents the sacrifices made by those who had the courage to fight for our independence. Through their struggle was born the freedom we cherish. This weekend is a perfect opportunity to celebrate that freedom and to remember how fortunate we are to have it.

With freedom, of course, comes the responsibility to do our part in preserving and protecting that freedom. Acting on this responsibility will help ensure continued liberty and prosperity in New Jersey and across the nation.

As you kick off your summer, now is a good time to recognize our responsibilities in terms of summer safety. I don't mean to sound preachy, but there are a few ways in which a little caution and foresight can save a lot of frustration - and maybe save a life.

For example, the Fourth of July weekend is known for heavy traffic, and the potential for accidents increases. Taking responsibility means leaving plenty of extra time to get to your destination, driving the speed limit, and buckling up.

I hope you will also exercise responsibility whenever you attend a party this summer where alcohol is served. That means choosing a designated driver, and having the good sense to take the keys away from a friend who wants to drive after having too much to drink.

Finally, I want to make a special plea to be careful, smart, and responsible when it comes to the Fourth of July tradition of fireworks.

Never let children handle or set off fireworks. Remember, it's illegal in New Jersey. Even so, every year, many children are burned because of misuse of fireworks. So sit back, relax, and watch a fireworks display from a distance at a state or community park.

I am looking forward to continuing a wonderful summer season in the Garden State. Let's all do our part to make it a safe one as well. Thank you and have a great weekend.