



# Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office



April

## Prevention Bulletin

208



Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. Cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — has become the most common distraction. Other risky actions include adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. By driving distracted, you’re robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.

### Drive Responsibly

In 2022, [distracted driving](#) killed 3,308 people. April, which is national Distracted Driving Awareness Month, is a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we’re on the road. Follow these safety tips for a safe ride:

- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location.
- Designate your passenger as your “designated texter” to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through apps while driving. Struggling not to text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

### The Consequences

During a portion of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, from April 10 through 14, you may see increased law enforcement on the roadways as part of the national paid media campaign [Put the Phone Away or Pay](#). This campaign reminds drivers of the deadly dangers and the legal consequences – including fines – of texting behind the wheel.

### Take Action

- Remind your friends and family: If you’re in the driver’s seat, it’s the only thing you should be doing. No distractions.
- If your driver is texting or otherwise distracted, tell them to stop and focus on the road.
- Ask your friends to join you in [pledging not to drive distracted](#). You could save a life. Share your pledge on social media to spread the word — #JustDrive.

## Spring Rains - Staying Safe During a Flood

Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States. Deadly flooding can happen anywhere and faster than you might expect.

It is important to be prepared for flooding if you live in a low-lying area near a body of water, such as a river, stream, or culvert. You should also be wary if you live along a coastline or downstream from a dam, levee, or area that has been burned by wildfire.

Protect yourself during a flood with these [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) tips:

- **Turn Around, Don't Drown!** Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters. Just six (6) inches of moving water can knock you down. Just one (1) foot of water can sweep your vehicle off the roadway.
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water. If water is rising inside the car, then seek refuge on the roof.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly with little warning.

For more information click link <https://www.ready.gov/floods>



# FLOOD WARNING

Flooding is happening or will happen soon.

Move to high ground immediately.

# FLOOD WATCH

Flooding is possible.

Stay tuned to radio/TV for info and be ready to move to higher ground.



FEMA



Don't underestimate the power of water!



6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.



# Keep Kids Safe

## FROM LAWN MOWER INJURIES

In the U.S., more than **9,000 children** go to the ER for lawn mower-related injuries every year.

**800 kids**

are run over by a riding mower

**600**

of these require **amputation**



two **most common** ages of injury



**3** and **16**



### WHEN CAN KIDS MOW THE LAWN?



**PUSH MOWER**

Age **12**  
or older



**RIDING MOWER**

Age **16**  
or older

- Kids must be both strong and mature enough.
- Train teens to operate the mower safely.
- Wear eye protection, and closed toe shoes.

# NEVER



take a child as a passenger on a riding mower.

### KEEP KIDS OUT OF YARD WHILE MOWING!

The blades can fire **a rock or stick** like a bullet.



[healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)

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DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## Wild Turkey Season Opens in North Carolina on April 12

Spring has officially arrived and turkey season is upon us.

As we prepare our gear for the season, it's always a good idea to talk safety. If you are planning to take a new or seasoned hunter into the field this year, or if you are going alone, safety should be your first priority.



Turkey hunting season opens in North Carolina on April 12. The youth season is April 5 – 11, and the statewide season is April 12 – May 10. Hunters are limited to two turkeys for the season, only one of which may be taken during the youth season.

### Ten safety tips for spring hunting

- Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.
- Always keep your gun's muzzle pointed in a safe direction, never toward a person.
- Never put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Identify your target and verify beyond your target before shooting.
- Anyone shooting or near a shooter should wear hearing and eye protection.
- Never climb or jump with a gun. You can't control the direction of the muzzle if you stumble or fall. Unload and safely lay the gun down or hand it to your hunting buddy if you must climb or jump. Use the same procedure when crossing over or under fences, trees or other obstructions.
- Keep the muzzle clear. Never let anything obstruct the muzzle of a gun or allow it to come in contact with the ground.
- When you finish shooting, put the trigger safety in the "on" position and unload the gun.
- Never run with a loaded gun to retrieve your downed bird.
- Never wear the colors red, white or blue. Use total camouflage and sit against a large tree or rock wide enough and tall enough to shield you from hunters approaching from behind.

And as a bonus, for those hunting public land in particular, if another hunter approaches your setup, call out in a loud, clear voice. Make sure your presence is acknowledged before you move. Never wave to alert another hunter of your presence.

Spring turkey season is an exciting time of year. We hope you accomplish all of your spring hunting goals and stay safe.

Anyone who witnesses suspicious activity such as poaching or baiting may be eligible to receive a reward (up to \$1,000) by reporting information that leads to a conviction to the Turn-In-Poachers program. For information on eligible violations and to learn how to submit a tip, visit [ncwildlife.org/wildtip](http://ncwildlife.org/wildtip).

For regulations and restrictions on turkey hunting, including information on youth season, refer to the [2024-2025 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest](#).

# 5 EASTER TIPS

..... TO KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE .....

## 1. BASKET GRASS

Plastic grass may look very cute in your Easter basket, but for your pets, it looks like a shiny treat. If swallowed, plastic grass can cause serious intestinal blockages.



## 2. LILIES

Lilies are very common around Easter. But they are **very** toxic to your feline friends and can cause rapid kidney failure.



## 3. CHOCOLATE

Chocolate is very toxic and can be fatal when dogs ingest it. Make sure to keep all the chocolate bunnies out of snout level!



## 4. EASTER FOOD

Easter food, such as hot cross buns, can cause upset stomachs - especially raisins and sultanas are toxic to dogs.



## 5. EASTER EGGS

Either real eggs or fake ones, can be harmful to your pets. Make sure you remember where you hide your eggs. Spoiled eggs can cause upset stomachs and fake ones, can cause intestinal blockages.



# YADKIN COUNTY



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office is proud to serve the citizens of Yadkin County by promoting the importance of fire safety through education, inspections, and investigations. The Fire Marshal's Office functions under the direction of the emergency services director.

The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for various duties, which include:

- County Fire Inspection Program
- Fire / arson investigations
- Budget preparation
- Coordination between county government and county fire departments
- Fire prevention programs
- Response to emergency situations

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**Emergency: 9-1-1**

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