

WILENTZ

—ATTORNEYS AT LAW—

WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER, P.A.

Fireworks, BBQs, and Summer Injuries: Who May Be Liable?

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Summer in New Jersey often means fireworks, backyard barbecues, and time spent outdoors with family and friends. While these gatherings are meant to be enjoyable, they also carry real risks. Burns, falls, fires, and alcohol-related incidents can quickly turn a celebration into a [serious personal injury](#) situation. When that happens, liability depends on whether someone failed to act with reasonable care.

Fireworks Accidents

Fireworks are a common source of summer injuries, especially around holidays. Burns, eye injuries, and fires can occur when fireworks are used improperly or too close to others.

Liability may fall on the person using the fireworks if they acted recklessly, or on a property owner who allowed unsafe use without proper precautions. In some cases, a defective product may shift responsibility to the manufacturer or seller.

In New Jersey, only certain types of ground-based sparkling devices and novelty fireworks are permitted, while many aerial and explosive fireworks remain prohibited.

Backyard BBQ and Grill Injuries

Grilling accidents can involve burns, explosions, or exposure to harmful gases. These incidents often happen when equipment is left unattended, improperly placed, or defective.

Hosts may be liable if they fail to maintain a safe environment for guests, such as not supervising the grill or ignoring obvious hazards. If a product defect is involved, liability may extend to the manufacturer or installer.

Pool and Water-Related Injuries

Pools and water features can pose serious risks, particularly for children. Drownings and slip-and-fall injuries are often linked to lack of supervision or unsafe conditions.

Property owners and hosts may be responsible if they fail to secure the area, provide warnings, or take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm.

Alcohol-Related Injuries

Alcohol can increase the risk of accidents, from slips and falls to impaired driving after leaving an event. Liability may involve the intoxicated individual, the host, or, in some cases, a commercial establishment under dram shop laws.

Slip and Fall Hazards

Outdoor gatherings often involve uneven surfaces, wet areas, and temporary setups. Property owners may be liable if they knew or should have known about a dangerous condition and failed to fix it or warn guests.

When Negligence Leads to Injury

Across these situations, liability usually comes down to negligence; whether someone acted unreasonably or failed to take proper safety precautions. Each case depends on the specific facts and circumstances. No two summer injury cases are exactly alike, and responsibility may involve more than one person or entity.

Injured During a Summer Celebration? We Can Help

Summer should be a time to enjoy, not to deal with preventable injuries. But when accidents happen, the consequences can be serious.

If you or a loved one has been injured at a fireworks display, barbecue, pool party, or other summer event, our Personal Injury team can help you understand your rights and determine who may be responsible. Call us today to discuss your situation and learn how we may be able to help.

Attorney

- Joshua C. Halma

Practice

- Personal Injury