

THIS SUMMER, THINK SAFETY FIRST!

June 14, 2011, Simi Valley, Calif. - Summer barbecues, beach trips and fun in the sun are on everyone's to-do lists. While getting ready to enjoy some summer fun, Waste Management encourages residents to keep safety in mind.

1. **Keep our kids safe:** During summertime, many children enjoy carefree activities such as bike riding and playing basketball in our streets. Encourage your kids to observe all safety rules and regulations, including wear helmets and pads, in addition to remaining aware of oncoming traffic. Waste Management drivers are specially trained to remain cautious and aware at all times while driving, but we need the community's help to keep our kids safe.
2. **Keep our trash cans safe:** Every year, hot coals from barbecues are improperly disposed of and cause both fires and injuries. Coals that appear cooled may in fact still be hot, and could cause a fire in your trash can, which is dangerous for your community and for our drivers. Coals or ashes fresh from the barbecue should never be disposed directly into your collection container or in your green waste container. Coals should be cooled for several days, and then placed in a metal container with a tight lid for proper disposal in your waste container. To speed up the cooling process, you may carefully place coals in a metal container full of water to "drown" them as you would a campfire. Remember: never place coals in even if you think they are cool - in plastic, paper or wood containers.
3. **Keep our wildlife safe:** Be sure to dispose of all trash from barbecues and picnics properly to keep our wildlife safe from harm. Improperly disposed of trash, especially items like plastic from soda can containers can be dangerous to wildlife such as birds. By keeping waste properly contained, we can keep our wildlife safe from unnecessary harm. Waste Management will do the rest!

"Summer is a time for safety just as much as it is for fun," said Lisa Hemenway, Community Relations for Waste Management. "Waste Management is always on the lookout to improve safety for residents both in and out of our trucks."

For more information about how Waste Management can help you meet your waste disposal and recycling needs, call Lisa Hemenway at (805) 581-1746.

ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT-VENTURA COUNTY

Waste Management provides Ventura County with recycling, trash hauling and solid waste disposal through G.I. Industries and the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. Waste Management has owned and operated G.I. Industries since 1998 and the SVLRC site since 1983 and employs more than 230 people in Ventura County. The SVLRC provides approximately 60% of Ventura County's daily refuse disposal needs. The company operates a "green power" program at the site that generates enough power for 2,500 homes, and clean-burning LNG powers 48 of its trucks. Waste Management is a significant contributor to area community groups.