

Independence Day by the numbers

1 Ranking of July 4 as the occasion for the country's highest beer sales.

25 Number of copies of the Declaration of Independence known to exist. (No originals with the famous signatures are known to remain.)

31 Towns in the U.S. that have the word *liberty* in their name.

14,000 Public fireworks displays in the U.S. to celebrate the holiday.

150 million Number of hot dogs Americans were estimated to have consumed last Fourth of July.

Ooooh! Ahhhh!

The rules for fireworks safety

Tips from Ralph Apel, president of the National Council on Fireworks Safety:

Avoid M-80s and Cherry Bombs While fireworks are legal in 45 states and DC, these are *not* and are extremely dangerous.

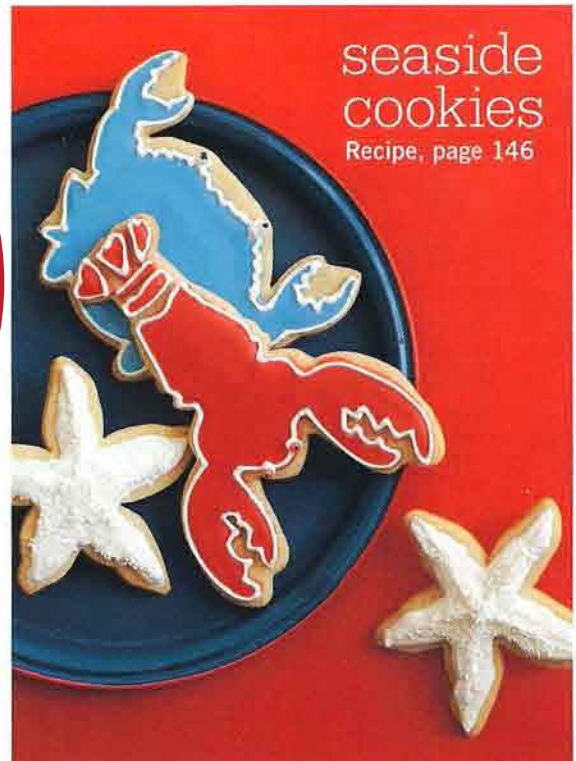
Read the label so you know what to expect.

Assign a "designated shooter" to find a flat, hard surface away from the crowd, put up a barrier and use a shooting box (most fireworks retailers sell them). He or she should wear eye protection.

Keep your distance If you're in the crowd, stand 20 to 40 feet away from the shooter.

Got sparklers? Make sure everyone stands at least 6 feet apart so no one gets burned. Light only one at a time and have a bucket of water handy to put them in after they go out. Whether the sparklers are made of wire or wood, they'll still be hot—bad news for little hands and bare feet. For more tips and how-to videos, go to fireworksafety.com ▶

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ALISON MIKSCHE; PROP STYLING BY LOREN SIMONS; KATE SEARS; FOOD STYLING BY FRANK P. MELODIA; GONG STYLING BY GREGORY WILSON; HILLTOP ARCHIVE/GETTY; SHUTTERSTOCK; STEVE GRANITZ/GETTY; SHUTTERSTOCK.



★ ELVIS



★ BLUE JEANS AND A PLAIN WHITE T-SHIRT ★



LAS VEGAS ★ OPRAH



★ THE LIBERTY BELL

