

**Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media ContactVenetta Seals | rchcares@reevesregional.com
432-447-3551 ext. 2243**Reeves Regional Health Reminds Community to Put Safety First This July 4th***From Fireworks to Family Gatherings, Smart Choices Help Keep the Holiday Joyful*

PECOS, Texas (June 30, 2025) – As the community prepares for Fourth of July celebrations, Reeves Regional Health is encouraging local families to make safety part of their holiday plans. Whether staying close to home or heading out to enjoy parades, cookouts, or fireworks, taking simple precautions can prevent accidents and protect loved ones.

“The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate freedom, family, and community,” said Brenda McKinney, CEO of Reeves Regional Health. “But it’s also one of the busiest times of year for emergency rooms across the country. A little awareness can go a long way toward keeping everyone safe.”

The Emergency Department of Reeves Regional Health will remain open 24/7 throughout the holiday weekend to care for urgent medical needs. Ancillary Services and offices at Reeves Regional Health will be closed. The Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic will be closed on Friday, July 4th, but will operate its normal Saturday Clinic on July 5th from 9 a.m. to noon.

Fireworks Are Best Left to the Pros

Fireworks are a beloved part of Independence Day, but they also pose serious risks—from burns and eye injuries to fires. With dry conditions common in West Texas, McKinney urges residents to attend community fireworks shows rather than attempting displays at home.

“We know fireworks are exciting, but they are also unpredictable,” McKinney said. “Professional shows are safer, more spectacular, and far less likely to end with someone getting hurt.”

Barbecue Without the Burn

Grilling is part of the fun, but it comes with potential hazards. Whether using propane or charcoal, always set up the grill away from homes, fences, or overhanging branches, and never leave it unattended while hot.

“Most grilling accidents are entirely preventable,” said McKinney. “It’s about planning your setup, watching the flames, and keeping children and pets at a safe distance. Simple steps can make all the difference.”

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Stay Ahead of the Heat

With summer temperatures soaring, it's important to recognize the signs of heat-related illness. Prolonged exposure to heat and sun can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, or even heat stroke—especially during outdoor gatherings or sports.

To stay protected, drink water regularly, wear light clothing and sunscreen, and take breaks in shaded or air-conditioned spaces.

“In Pecos, we know the heat is no joke,” McKinney said. “Make hydration and shade part of your plans, especially for kids, seniors, and anyone spending time outdoors.”

Don't Let the Water Turn Dangerous

Whether you're visiting Balmorhea State Park or enjoying a pool party with friends, water safety should never be overlooked. McKinney reminds parents to actively supervise children, require life jackets for young swimmers and boaters, and avoid alcohol when monitoring others in or near the water.

“Drowning can happen in seconds,” said McKinney. “Don't assume someone else is watching. Take turns being the designated water watcher.”

If You Drink, Don't Drive

Celebrations often involve alcohol—and too often, impaired driving follows. Planning ahead is critical to ensure you and your loved ones make it home safely.

Reeves Regional Health encourages folks to designate a sober driver in advance, use a rideshare service, or simply stay overnight rather than getting behind the wheel.

“We want you to enjoy your weekend,” McKinney said. “But we also want you back home safely. A bad decision behind the wheel can have life-altering consequences.”

Protect Your Pets from Firework Fright

While fireworks light up the sky for us, they can be terrifying for pets. Dogs and cats often react with anxiety to the sound and vibration of explosions—sometimes even running away in fear. Reeves Regional Health encourages pet owners to take extra steps to keep animals calm and safe.

“If you have pets, it's important to plan ahead,” said McKinney. “Keep them indoors, create a quiet

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space, and make sure they have ID tags in case they get scared and bolt. Pets don't understand celebrations—they just hear danger.”

To learn more about local medical providers or to schedule an appointment at Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic, please call 432-447-0565. For more information about local healthcare resources, visit www.reevesregional.com.

About Reeves Regional Health

Reeves Regional Health (RRH), formally known as Reeves County Hospital District, provides healthcare services for Reeves County and neighboring West Texas communities. Founded in 1954, RRH, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers various medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory, and more. RRH also operates Reeves Regional Home Health and Hospice and Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic. In November 2022, RRH began serving patients from a new \$115 million, 140,000-square-foot campus. For more information, please visit www.reevesregional.com.

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