



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Corrections Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Fire Marshal Urges Caution This Holiday Weekend

Baton Rouge, LA –The Office of State Fire Marshal wishes to remind citizens of the dangers associated with consumer fireworks. Each year dozens of people across our state are injured by fireworks. Sadly, many of those injured are young children.

A report by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) revealed that more than one-third (35%) of those seen in emergency rooms for fireworks related injuries were under the age of 15, and that sparklers alone accounted for more than one-quarter (28%) of fireworks injuries requiring emergency room treatment during this same season in 2014.

Property damage should also be of concern. That same report by the CPSC highlighted an estimated 15,600 reported fires in the U.S. in 2013 caused by fireworks. A data collection period of 2009 – 2013 revealed that more than one-quarter (28%) of fires started by fireworks were reported on Independence Day and almost half (47%) of the reported fires on the Fourth of July were caused by fireworks.

The CPSC offers the following tips when using fireworks this Fourth of July:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children can suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.

For more information on fireworks safety, please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Louisiana-Office-of-State-Fire-Marshal-207524079331321/>

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