



MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE CHANEY
State Fire Marshal

PRESS RELEASE

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Lives, Homes, Pets at Risk with Improper Fireworks Use

State Fire Marshal urges Fourth of July Fireworks Safety

JACKSON –Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney urges Mississippians to stay safe if participating in any fireworks activities this Fourth of July. Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicate that fireworks cause an average of almost 18,500 reported fires a year.

“More U.S. fires are reported on Independence Day in a typical year, than on any other day of the year, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause,” Chaney said.

“Anyone choosing to handle fireworks this holiday needs to be especially mindful of proper safety precautions, particularly if young children are around.”

The risk of fireworks injury is highest for young people ages 0-4, followed by children 10-14. Sparklers, often a favorite with children, accounted for 30% of injuries in 2014, they can reach up to 1200 ° Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns.

Chaney added that anyone using or planning to be around any type of fireworks be also mindful of their pets. More pets are lost on Independence Day than any other day of the year. Check with your local veterinarian and animal shelters to help protect your animals from becoming frightened by fireworks.

For those choosing to use consumer fireworks, the Mississippi State Fire Marshal suggests you follow these safety tips:

- Observe local laws. Those wishing to purchase and use fireworks should first check with their local county and/or fire protection officials to determine that local laws are being followed. Some municipalities prohibit fireworks from being used within city limits. Additional zoning regulations prohibiting the use of fireworks may apply in non-municipal areas. If you are unsure whether it is legal to use fireworks in your area, first check with local officials.
- Use common sense and always read and follow the directions on each firework.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Buy from reliable fireworks sellers. Store them in a cool, dry place.
- Always have an adult present when shooting fireworks.
- Put used fireworks in a bucket of water and have a hose ready.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass, and trees.
- Light only one item at a time and keep a safe distance.
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

There will be many professional fireworks displays open to the public throughout the state on the Fourth. The National Fire Prevention Association believes attending one of those and leaving fireworks in the hands of professionals is the safest way to celebrate the Fourth of July.