



# MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE CHANEY  
State Fire Marshal

PRESS RELEASE

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# **Keep your home and family safe this Fourth of July**

## **State Fire Marshal urges proper fireworks use**

JACKSON – Fireworks cause about 18,500 reported fires each year\*. Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney wants you to stay safe if using fireworks this Fourth of July.

“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.

Young children\* playing with fire are among the top causes of fires. Chaney said, “Anyone choosing to handle fireworks this holiday needs to be especially mindful of proper safety precautions, particularly if young children are around.”

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\* The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

The risk of fireworks injury is highest for young people ages 0-4. Sparklers, a favorite of children, are a leading cause of fireworks injuries\*. More than half of the fireworks injuries to children, under five, were caused by sparklers. Sparklers can reach up to 1200 ° Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns.

Chaney added that more pets are lost on Independence Day than any other day of the year. Check with your local veterinarian and animal shelters to protect your animals from becoming frightened by fireworks.

For those choosing to use consumer fireworks, Chaney says to follow these safety tips:

- Observe local laws. Some municipalities outlaw fireworks from being used within city limits. Other zoning laws could apply in other areas. If you are unsure whether it is legal to use fireworks where you live, check with local officials.
- Use common sense: 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.

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\* 2015 Consumer Product Safety Commission report

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

State Fire Marshal Chaney echoes that, saying, “I’m urging you to have a great time celebrating the birth of our nation, but also be safe when you celebrate.”

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