



MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE CHANEY
State Fire Marshal

PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrate the New Year safely

JACKSON, Miss. – Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney urges Mississippians to stay safe if using fireworks to celebrate the New Year. Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicate that fireworks cause an average of almost 18,500 reported fires a year.

“Anyone choosing to handle fireworks this holiday needs to be especially mindful of proper safety precautions,” Chaney said. “In particular, you need to be careful if young children are around as they are often more likely to get hurt.”

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. Check with your local veterinarian and animal shelters to help protect your animals from becoming frightened by fireworks.

For those choosing to use 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 fire protection officials to make sure 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.

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