

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Beth Reiss

Communications Director

beth.reiss@mid.ms.gov

601-359-2403

State Fire Marshal: Celebrate Independence Day Safely

JACKSON, Miss. – The risk of fireworks injury is highest for young people ages 0-4 with sparklers being a leading cause of fireworks injuries. Sparklers can get up to 2000° and cause third degree burns.

With that in mind, Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney wants you to stay safe when using fireworks by following these tips:

- Observe local laws. Some municipalities outlaw fireworks from being used within city limits.
- 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.

Likewise, play it smart if you choose to grill out or barbecue this week.

The Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office recommends these grilling safety tips:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
 - Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
 - Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grill surface and in trays below the grill.
 - Never leave your grill unattended.

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