

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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START 2021 SAFELY, PREVENT FIREWORK INJURY

JACKSON, Miss. – With so many people looking forward to beginning a new year, firework celebrations are sure to be plentiful.

State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney urges everyone to use caution when using fireworks.

“That’s especially important if young children are around, as they are often more likely to get hurt,” said Chaney. “The risk of fireworks injury is highest for young people ages 0-4, followed by children 10-14.”

Sparklers, often a favorite with children, can reach up to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns.

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.
- Use common sense: 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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