



MOLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT
GARY C. FRANQUE, CHIEF OF POLICE
PRESS RELEASE

DATE: June 28, 2006

The Independence Day holiday period brings annual attention to the dangers and illegality of fireworks products.

Generally, fireworks can not be considered safe, especially near children. Most fireworks products are illegal to use, or even possess in Illinois.

The Moline Police Department responds as soon as possible to reports of the unlawful use or possession of fireworks. Responding officers will attempt to locate the persons using fireworks and, depending on the circumstances, may warn, cite, or arrest any subjects suspected of being in possession of and/or igniting fireworks illegally. Officers may also confiscate illegal fireworks as evidence or as contraband.

Persons found to be in possession of illegal fireworks can be cited for Illegal Possession of Fireworks, a violation of the Moline code of Ordinances, which carries a fine of from \$10.00 to \$750.00. Persons may also be arrested for Unlawful Possession of Fireworks, a violation of Illinois Compiled Statutes, a Class A Misdemeanor which carries a fine of up to \$2500.00 and up to 364 days in jail.

Residents can report the unlawful use of fireworks by calling the police / fire non-emergency number at 797-0401. Callers are asked to determine as accurately as possible the location of the suspected unlawful activity, and relate the specific information to police / fire call takers.

Any incident that has resulted in a fire, or an injury requiring emergency response, should be reported by calling 911.

The City of Moline asks the cooperation of all citizens in preventing injury and property damage by using legal fireworks products safely and only according to recommended instructions, and by refraining from the use or possession of illegal fireworks.