

MOLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Marshal's Office

Fire Marshal, Ed Vize

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

With the Independence Day holidays approaching, it is important for our citizens to be aware of the dangers posed by fireworks. Every year, nearly 10,000 people have to go to emergency rooms because of fireworks injuries. Burns are the leading type of fireworks injury (62%). In 2004, 55% of people injured were under the age of 20. The highest rate of injury was for the ages 5 to 9, with 2.2 times the risk as for the entire population. Males account for 75% of all fireworks injuries and an average of 6 people per year are killed directly by fireworks. An average of 8 people per year are killed as a result of fires caused by fireworks with resulting damage to structures from fires caused by fireworks in excess of \$58,000,000. On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks cause more reported outdoor fires in the United States than all other causes of outdoor fire combined. In 2004, sparklers, fountains and novelties accounted for 40 % of all emergency room fireworks injuries.

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal regulates the purchase and usage of all consumer fireworks. Permits are issued at the local level for the purchase and detonation of fireworks, **only to OSFM licensed pyro-technicians**, who must meet all eligibility requirements entailed within the Fireworks Use Act. Unless these requirements are met, most consumer fireworks purchases and detonations are expressly prohibited.

Within this local jurisdiction, only snake or glow worm pellets, smoke devices, noisemakers (party poppers), cap pistols and sparklers are legal. Even with legal devices, safety precautions are of the utmost importance. Have a water source in the immediate vicinity, in an area with no fire/life safety exposure concerns and always have adult supervision. Any questions you may have about purchase or usage of fireworks should be directed to the Fire Marshal of the Moline Fire Department.

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