

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fireworks Safety

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Charleston, SC (July 03, 2014): The Charleston Fire Department would like to remind citizens about the rules and regulations regarding fireworks and provide safety tips and information for a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July holiday. City Ordinance Sec. 13-191 prohibits the use, sale, possession, discharge of any fireworks within the City of Charleston. Smaller items such as sparklers, snap-pops, or similar are not regulated as fireworks materials and are permissible. Fireworks displays must be conducted by a licensed operator with an approved permit.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fireworks caused an estimated 17,000 fires, 1,200 of those were structure fires, in 2011. Fireworks can have life-altering effects on consumers and most injuries are preventable. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2013:

- 11,400 consumers were treated in U.S. hospitals for fireworks-related injuries.
- More than 7,400 or 65 percent of these injuries occurred between June 21, 2013 and July 21, 2013.
- 36% of the injuries sustained in 2013 were to the hands and fingers.
- 38% of the injuries were reported to the head, face, and eyes.
- Sparklers are often viewed as a harmless item, but they can reach temperatures exceeding 1,000 degree Fahrenheit and accounted for 12% of the fireworks injuries in 2012.
- Sparklers may cause third-degree burns, will retain heat, and can cause fires.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to encourage you to attend a professional fireworks display to enjoy the 4th of July festivities. Should you attend other functions or events that include fireworks please practice a few simple safety tips:

- Sparklers can burn and must be used under careful supervision – keep them at arm's length, away from combustibles, and dispose of properly.
- Never hold, or light, more than one sparkler at a time and keep at least 6 feet of distance between you and another person.
- Always wear closed-toe shoes when using sparklers or other fireworks.
- Do not allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Never fire or launch items at another individual or structure.
- Never discharge fireworks in a home or structure.
- Dry brush and debris may easily ignite.

The Charleston Fire Department wants everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July. Remember, in the event of an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

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