

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fireworks Safety

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Charleston, SC (July 02, 2015): 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, and 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.

Fireworks can have life-altering effects on consumers and most injuries are preventable. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2013:

- 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 Fourth 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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