



# Fireworks Safety Tips

July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities are fast approaching and the Frederick County Fire Marshal's Office wants you to have a safe holiday. Did you know that more fires are reported on July 4<sup>th</sup> than on any other day of the year in the US? Nearly half of these fires are caused by fireworks. In 2011, almost 18,000 fires were caused by fireworks. Fireworks cause thousands of burns and eye injuries each year. People can enjoy fireworks safely if they follow a few simple safety tips:

## ***PROCEED WITH CAUTION!***

- In Frederick County, consumer fireworks, namely sparklers and ground based fountains, are legal to possess and use on private property. You should only purchase legal consumer fireworks from a local business or roadside stand possessing a fireworks retail permit from the Frederick County Fire Marshal's Office. These fireworks have been tested to ensure they meet the Consumer Products Safety Commission's requirements.
- Consumer fireworks that rise into the air, explode, travel laterally on the ground or emit projectiles are illegal to possess or use anywhere in Virginia. Local businesses will not sell these fireworks and possession and/or use of these materials is a Class 1 Misdemeanor. The authorized punishments for conviction of a Class 1 Misdemeanor is confinement in jail for not more than twelve months and/or a fine of not more than \$2,500.
- For backyard displays using legal consumer fireworks, the area should be wet down before use to prevent an accidental fire. Ground based fireworks

should be placed on an open, stable and flat surface, with no one within 20ft of a display.

- Adult supervision is critical! Adults should supervise the use of sparklers as they burn at a temperature of more than 1,200 degrees, which is hot enough to cause severe burns. Sparklers cause 16% of fireworks injuries. They are also a poking hazard; therefore keep children from running while using them.

After the fireworks display, spent fireworks should be wet down and placed in a metal container with a lid. Place the container at least 15ft away from any building or structure so that it may cool overnight. Re-check the container regularly to ensure nothing is smoldering, and then properly dispose of the wet materials.

Children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over, as they may still be active.

**Remember, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.**

