

Aberdeen Fire Department Provides 4th of July Tips

Local News

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The Aberdeen Fire Department wishes everyone to Celebrate Safely. With July 4th celebrations near, the Aberdeen Fire Department would like to remind the public about fireworks and safety. Fireworks can be discharged in the City of Aberdeen between the hours of 9 AM and 12 Midnight on July 4th.

Be Prepared before you light fireworks: Purchase only legal fireworks, available at licensed fireworks stands. Ensure safety of pets. Keep a bucket of water nearby in which to place all used fireworks. Have a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby to put out stray sparks. Call 911 and give the correct address or location if an emergency arises. Know basic first aid **Be Safe, when lighting fireworks:** Have a designated adult light all fireworks. Use eye protection. Light one firework at a time, move away quickly, and keep spectators at a safe distance until the display is finished. Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 15-20 minutes and then soak it in water. Use only outdoors and away from anything that can burn. To prevent injuries, follow the label directions carefully. Always remember, do not throw fireworks or hold in you hand. **Be Responsible, after you finish:** Be considerate of neighbors and clean up the debris when finished. If a device does not light or fire, an adult should wait at least five minutes and approach it carefully. Make sure all unused fireworks; matches and lighters are out of sight and reach of children. **Some Fireworks facts/statistics:** In 2004 through 2008 there were nearly 5,000 fireworks-related injuries and/or fires reported to the State Fire Marshal by fire departments and hospital emergency rooms a five year average of nearly 1000 per year. Children under the age of 14 included 34% if these injuries reported. Fire Departments and Hospitals in Grays Harbor County reported a total of **11** Fireworks related incidents with 6 confirmed injuries in 2008. Fireworks-related incidents most often occur on July 4. This has remained constant over the past years. Bottle rockets and firecrackers lead the list of illegal devices causing injuries.

City of Aberdeen

On June 28th the sale of legal fireworks has begun in many areas. In the City of Aberdeen, fireworks regulations are more restrictive than the state regulations. The following restrictions apply to the City of Aberdeen: Sale of fireworks is allowed from 11:00AM July 1st until 11:00 PM July 4th. Discharge of fireworks is allowed only on July 4th 9:00AM until 12:00 Midnight. Lawful fireworks are defined as class C common fireworks and labeled U.N. 0336 1.4G. It is unlawful to set off, ignite or aid in setting off any form of fireworks in a public place, which includes parks, sidewalks, streets and other pedestrian and automobile byways. A safe alternative is to attend a community fireworks display like the City of Aberdeen 4th of July Splash. We urge citizens who chose to have their own private fireworks displays to use the following precautions: **BEFORE YOU LIGHT FIREWORKS--"Be Prepared!"** Purchase only legal fireworks, available at approved stands. Place pets indoors as they may become frightened. Keep a bucket of water nearby in which to place all used fireworks. Have a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby to put out stray sparks. Clear a level area away from things that can burn. Know the emergency number to call for your area, your address/location, and basic

first aid. Teach your children to "stop, drop, and roll" if their clothes catch on fire. **WHEN LIGHTING FIREWORKS--"Be Safe!"**Have a designated adult light all fireworks. Do not allow young children to light fireworks, only adults should light fireworks. Use eye protection and wear safety goggles. Light one at a time, move away quickly, and keep at a safe distance until the display is finished. Use only outdoors, away from anything that can burn. To prevent injuries, never throw fireworks and never hold fireworks in your hand. **AFTER YOU FINISH -- "Be Responsible!"**Clean up all debris when finished. Duds can be dangerous; if a device does not light or fire, an adult should wait at least five minutes, approach it carefully, and place it in a bucket of water.. Independence Day is a time to celebrate our freedoms. With this freedom comes a shared responsibility to ensure the close supervision of children whenever fireworks are present. Please, "Be Prepared", "Be Safe", and "Be Responsible" when discharging fireworks. To learn more about fireworks safety and fireworks, visit the Washington State Fire Protection Bureau web site at www.wa.gov/wsp or call your Aberdeen Fire Department at 532-1254