



city of
greenville

News Release

GREENVILLE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT URGES RESIDENTS TO CELEBRATE SAFELY

(Greenville SC) The Greenville City Fire Department (GCFD) is urging residents to stay safe when celebrating over the holiday weekend. “Fire officials strongly discourage the consumer use of fireworks, especially considering the lack of rain and dry conditions in our area,” said Will Broscius, GCFD’s community risk reduction coordinator. “Ideally, we’d prefer for our residents to attend the City’s Red, White and Blue festival to enjoy the professional fireworks display, but if they do choose to use fireworks, we want to ensure that they make informed purchases and take the appropriate precautions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.”

According to Broscius, you must be 16 or older to purchase fireworks, and you should only purchase them from an approved fireworks retailer. Fireworks cannot be sold from a tent or vehicle, and all fireworks stands must be inspected by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Once a fireworks stand passes the state inspection, GCFD is notified and performs its own inspection to ensure that the building has a fire extinguisher, that there are no flammable liquids being stored inside the building and that the building meets the City’s overall safety regulations. Approved fireworks stands should have two permits – one posted on the outside of the stand, and one posted inside the stand, along with a retail license. Additionally, fireworks sold to the public can only have 50 milligrams or less of pyrotechnic composition per firework, so fireworks such as M-80s and Cherry Bombs are illegal. Both illegal fireworks and fireworks from an unlicensed stand can be confiscated by law enforcement or the State Fire Marshal. Residents using consumer fireworks should follow the safety tips below from the State Fire Marshal:

- Check with local officials if you’re unsure whether it’s legal to use fireworks where you live
- Only buy fireworks from retailers permitted through the Fire Marshal’s Office
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place
- Always have an adult present when shooting fireworks
- Use common sense and always read and follow the directions on each firework
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass and trees
- Light one firework at a time and keep a safe distance
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks

- Never give fireworks to small children
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse
- Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Put used fireworks in a bucket of water and keep a garden hose on hand

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause an average of almost 18,500 reported fires per year. Additionally, each July 4th, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. “Sparklers burn hot enough to cause third-degree burns, and account for more than one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries,” said Broschius. “The safest way to enjoy fireworks is by attending a professional fireworks display, so we strongly advise our citizens to play it safe and let the experts handle the fireworks.”