



Fire Department Media Release

902 South Grandstaff Drive, Auburn, Indiana 46706 | 260.925.8255 phone | 260.920.3345 fax | fire@ci.auburn.in.us | www.ci.auburn.in.us



Michael VanZile
Fire Chief

June 18, 2010

THIS FOURTH OF JULY AVOID THE WORST PUT FIREWORKS SAFETY FIRST

There is no better time than the 4th of July to show your patriotism. Every year, the Auburn Fire Department promotes safety above everything else because fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious injuries, public disturbances and even uncontrolled fires requiring law enforcement and fire department response.

Indiana's fireworks law states that only individuals 18 years of age or older may purchase fireworks. Anyone under the age of 18 may possess or use a firework only in the presence of an adult. No person within the City of Auburn shall use or display any type of consumer fireworks on any other day or time other than the following: June 29, 30, July 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, between the hours of 5:00 pm to two hours after sunset and July 4 between the hours of 10:00 am and midnight. Labor Day and the Sunday before Labor Day from 10:00am until two hours after sunset and between the hours of 10:00 am on December 31 and 1:00 am on January 1. No other date or time is permitted for consumer use of fireworks in the City of Auburn.

Fireworks may be discharged only on your property or the property of someone who has granted you permission to discharge fireworks.

A reminder that dry weather conditions can easily contribute to quick fire spread with the use of fireworks. If you decide to set fireworks off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Have an adult present and NEVER give fireworks to small children.
- Use outdoors only.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.



- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Stay away from illegal explosives

More than 50% of sparkler related injuries happen to children under the age of 14. I encourage parents to safely supervise the activities of their children when sparklers are present. While they appeal to children of all ages, sparklers are not toys. Illegal fireworks continue to be a serious problem. Over the past ten years, 30% of the injuries associated with fireworks have typically been caused by illegal explosives or homemade fireworks.

The following are examples of injuries from legal and illegal fireworks:

*A 33-year-old man was setting off mortar style fireworks out of a black plastic pipe while in his backyard. As he leaned over one of the tubes and lit the fuse, the fireworks immediately went off striking him in the face. He was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced dead from head injuries.

*A 6-inch fountain that shot colored fireballs injured a 4-year-old girl. When the fountain tipped over, the victim was struck in the chest by a fireball. She sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns to her chest and neck. She was hospitalized for three weeks for burn treatment and skin grafts.

*A 15-year-old male tied together the wires of 10 sparklers. The sparklers ignited quickly and burned down very fast, finally exploding in his hand. The victim sustained a five-inch long laceration to his hand and forearm exposing muscle. Also, debris from the explosion lodged in his hand and arm. The victim had plastic surgery and has recovered.

My family, like yours, enjoys celebrating the Independence Day holiday and all of its traditions. I am asking that you celebrate safely and with consideration for your neighbors and your neighbors' property.

Michael J Good
Deputy Chief