FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

keep your family safe...

Sheriff David J. Gladieux

Parents, the best protection for your family is not to use any fireworks at home. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.

Should you still decide to set off fireworks at home, here are a few basic safety tips to follow...

- Obey local laws! If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Only use fireworks outside and have a water hose ready in case of emergency.
- Only use fireworks as intended, don't try to alter or combine them.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Never have any portion of your body directly over fireworks when lighting the fuse and make sure to move back to a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should always wear safety glasses.
- Only adults or supervised children over 12 should handle sparklers of any type. Make sure to keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't carry fireworks in your pocket; the friction could set them off.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- If any injury should occur seek immediate professional medical attention.

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