

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2024

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AVOID FIREWORK INJURY THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY

JACKSON, Miss. – The State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) encourages firework safety this Independence Day. The SFMO performs pyrotechnic inspections for shows that are performed on state owned properties. Pyrotechnics companies must apply for a permit for shows. Once received, the SFMO verifies all information pertaining to insurance, technicians, and local public safety information. Deputies must be on site for the firing of the display and clean up.

“However, it’s up to you to implement your own safety standards when shooting fireworks at home,” said State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney. “That means using common sense, never pointing fireworks at another person, and disposing of fireworks in water to prevent fire.”

[According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#), about 9,700 people were treated for firework injuries at ERs in 2023. There were eight deaths. There were an estimated 800 emergency department-treated injuries associated with firecrackers and 700 with sparklers.

To avoid injury, the Mississippi State Fire Marshal suggests you follow these safety tips:

- Observe local laws.
 - Those wishing to purchase and use fireworks should first check with their fire protection officials to make sure that local laws are being followed.
 - Some municipalities prohibit fireworks from being used within city limits.
- Use common sense: always read and follow the directions on each firework.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Buy from reliable fireworks sellers. Store them in a cool, dry place.
- Always have an adult present when shooting fireworks.
- Put used fireworks in a bucket of water and have a hose ready.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass, and trees.
- Light only one item at a time and keep a safe distance.
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

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