

New Year's Eve Prime for Fireworks-Related Injuries



Fourth of July and New Year's Eve are two popular holidays known for celebrating festivities with fireworks. Unfortunately, these two holidays are also associated with a high occurrence of fireworks-related injuries and property damage. Each year, in the United States, individuals are injured by fireworks that require medical treatment not to mention the millions of dollars in property damage that occurs from structure and vehicle fires as the result of fireworks. It is everyone's responsibility to practice safe measures as a means of preventing fireworks-related tragedies.

The Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind families that even with the use of legal fireworks, there are risks. To keep you and your loved ones safe as you prepare to celebrate the coming of the New Year, please adhere to the following fireworks safety tips should you choose to use consumer fireworks:

- Any use of commercial fireworks, in residential developments, should be reported.
- Fireworks should only be used under adult supervision.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors on a driveway, sidewalk or other fire-resistant surface. Remember, fires are caused by careless handling of fireworks in areas exposed to sparks or live fireworks.
- **Never** ignite fireworks during high winds where flying sparks can start a fire.
- **Do Not** ignite fireworks on decks, balconies, or patios.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case sparks start a fire.
- **Do Not** allow children to ignite fireworks.
- **Do Not** wear loose clothing when using fireworks.
- Be sure children around fireworks know to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches on fire.
- Deposit sparklers in a metal container as they may be stepped on while hot or lost in the grass and stepped on while playing.
- **Never** aim or throw fireworks at another person.
- **Never** try to re-ignite fireworks that malfunction or fail to go off.
- **Never** experiment or make your own fireworks.
- **Never** carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Let used fireworks set outside overnight before collecting for disposal.
- **Do Not** place used fireworks in combustible trash containers inside or next to structures.
- Pets may be frightened by the noise and lights of fireworks; keep pets inside or away from the area when in use.

Prince William County Fire and Rescue Chief Kevin McGee would like to remind residents that the County permits the use of some fireworks; however, there are restrictions that apply. For more information, please visit our [permissible fireworks](#) list located on our web site.