



## Office of the State Fire Marshal

# SAFETY BULLETIN

### Fireworks Safety and Rules – June/July 2016

In June 2015, the Division of Fire Prevention requested data from 293 hospitals within the State of Illinois. Nearly one-third of these hospitals reported firework injuries in the period of June 23rd through July 20th, 2015. This is an **increase** since 2014, with reports of male injuries increasing from 91 to 108 and female injuries increased from 36 to 38.

Most injuries associated with fireworks involved burns or injuries to the hands and face. So

with the 4th of July quickly approaching, the State Fire Marshal would like to remind citizens of the state about the dangers and the rules associated with the sales and or use of fireworks.

Here is a quick list of novelty fireworks which are **LEGAL** in the State of Illinois. (Individual municipalities may impose rules prohibiting the use or sale of these on public property).

#### **NOT REGULATED - BUT USE WITH CAUTION!**

- snake or glow worm pellets;
- smoke devices;
- trick noisemakers known as "party poppers", "booby traps", "snappers", "trick matches", "cigarette loads", and "auto burglar alarms";
- sparklers;
- toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns, or other devices in which paper or plastic caps containing twenty-five hundredths grains or less of explosive compound are used, if the hand cannot come in contact with the cap
- toy pistol paper or plastic caps that contain less than twenty hundredth grains of explosive mixture.

### In the News



### Champaign apartment fire started by kids using fireworks

**Associated Press-  
Posted June. 10, 2016**

**CHAMPAIGN** - Fire Investigators in Champaign now say a Memorial Day fire that displaced 32 people was started by children playing with fireworks.

Champaign Deputy Fire Marshal Randy Smith, said in a news release Thursday, "that the fire at the Town Center Apartments was an accident". The fire was started by a pair of 7-year old boys.

According to the News-Gazette, the fire started on a patio of one apartment some time before 5pm on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The blaze spread rapidly.

Champaign Police Sgt. Dennis Baltzell said no arrest will be made because of the boys' ages.

No matter the size, there is an inherent danger in the use of any firework. For instance, fire sparklers, a novelty firework typically given to children, burn at 1200°F. That's hotter than needed to melt glass! When placed against clothing or skin, it will cause serious injuries.

Fireworks are not only dangerous for those who handle them, but also those people around them. Stray sparks and "fallout" can start fires, burn bystanders, and cause damage. This is especially the case with banned or improperly used fireworks.

"In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 fires in the US, including 1,200 structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires. On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks account for two out of five of all reported fires, more than any other cause of fire." (NFPA)

"I strongly recommend that citizens enjoy and view the public displays put on by professionals instead of buying and using consumer fireworks.

*The dangers and risks associated with fireworks are just too dangerous," -- Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez.*

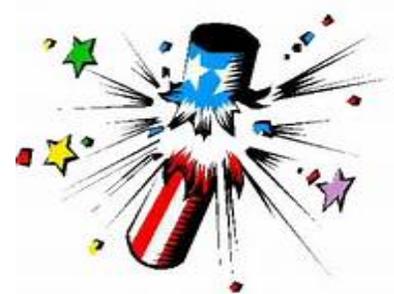
The Office of the State Fire Marshal maintains an updated list of approved consumer fireworks. The use of all "backyard" or "consumer" fireworks requires a site inspection and permit from the local jurisdiction. All consumer fireworks retailers must be registered with OSFM and may sell approved consumer fireworks to holders of valid permits. The use of consumer fireworks in Illinois must comply with the state rules, as well as any local, county, or municipal ordinances. It takes time and planning to assure a safe, legal and fun consumer fireworks display.

"Professional Pyrotechnics" or "Display Grade Fireworks" require a special licensing to possess, distribute, and display. These high explosive products are extremely dangerous and require special permits for storage and transportation as well as liability

insurance and complete product documentation for display. Information relating to fireworks or pyrotechnics can be found at: <http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/Commercial/Pyrotechnics-Fireworks>. Questions can be directed to Bob Wetzels, Safety Compliance Manager at 217-558-0328.

Here is a brief list of fireworks that are **ILLEGAL** to own and display, which includes, but may not be limited to:

- **Hand Held Fireworks**
- **Bottle & Sky Rockets**
- **Any "Firecrackers"**
- **Roman Candles, Chasers**
- **Buzz Bombs, Helicopters**
- **Missiles, Planes**
- **Pin Wheels, or any other twirling device,**
- **Sky Lanterns.**
- **Any Fireworks labeled "professional", or 1.3g**



Any person, firm, or corporation who violates the fireworks laws in the state, may be

**ARSON HOTLINE: (IEMA) 1-800-252-2947**

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*guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor.*

(425 ILCS 35/5)