



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT URGES SAFE,
RESPONSIBLE FIREWORKS USE THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Officials recommend leaving fireworks displays to professionals

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – The Forsyth County Fire Department reminds residents to practice safe, responsible use of fireworks while celebrating the nation’s independence on July 4 and throughout the holiday weekend.

“Personal safety is a key issue involving fireworks,” Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. “It is strongly recommended to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2008, fireworks caused an estimated 22,500 reported fires, including 1,400 total structure fires, 500 vehicle fires and 20,600 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated one death, 40 injuries and \$42 million in direct property damage.

Those who choose to use fireworks are urged to follow the safety tips below provided by the Forsyth County Fire Department and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Read and follow all labels, warnings and instructions.
- Always have an adult present.
- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Do not allow anyone under the age of 12 to handle sparklers at any time.
- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from structures, dry leaves, and flammable materials.

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- Keep a bucket of water and a garden hose close in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Light only one firework at a time
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned (wait 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 trash can.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- Stay away from illegal explosives and homemade fireworks.
- Dial 911 for any emergencies.

“Fireworks are unpredictable and injuries can occur even if a person is careful or is under supervision,” Bowman said. “The best way to avoid injury is to not use fireworks.”

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