

## **Fireworks – Independence Day Safety**

June 27, 2012

The Hall County Fire Marshal's Office is reminding the public to leave the fireworks to the pros this Independence Day. Hall County Fire Marshal Scott Cagle says, 'There will be plenty of opportunities to watch professional shows instead of putting children and others at risk with personal fireworks.'

Some fireworks are legal in Georgia, primarily those that emit sparkles and not the aerial type nor the exploding type commonly known as fire crackers. If you have to go to another state to buy them, that's a pretty good indication that they are illegal in Georgia. Even though Fire Services does not recommend citizens to use personal 'legal' fireworks at all, we recommend the following safety tips to those who choose to use them:

### Fireworks Safety Tips...

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Always have water handy (a hose or bucket) or a fire extinguisher.
- Shoot the fireworks on sturdy level ground (asphalt or concrete is best)
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a 'dud' firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter, and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a 'designated shooter.'
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type. Sparklers can burn in the excess of 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives: They can kill you! Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community.
- NEVER discard fireworks in the trash - soak them in a bucket of water first!

Source: National Council of Fireworks Safety and Hall County Fire Services

\*\*\*When attending a fireworks show, do not block any roadway, public right of way, or fire hydrant with your vehicle.\*\*\*