



PRESS RELEASE

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June Is National Fireworks Safety Month

One of America's most celebrated festive holidays is the 4th of July. Fireworks are fun and exciting, yet one of the biggest fire hazards to life and property. Each year, thousands of fireworks-related injuries are treated in hospital emergency departments throughout the United States.

No matter how breathtaking fireworks are, they are potential fire starters. The Prince William County Fire & Rescue System urges residents to leave fireworks to the professionals, by enjoying one of the many larger aerial fireworks demonstrations/shows in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. Check your local listings for dates, times, and locations of fireworks displays. However, should you choose to purchase fireworks, it's recommended to purchase fireworks from stands within the county, which have been permitted and inspected by the Fire Marshal's Office to sell approved fireworks.

June Is National Fireworks Safety Month. To stay safe, follow these fireworks safety tips:

- Fireworks should only be used and ignited by an adult.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors in an open space clear of spectators, buildings, vehicles, debris, and combustible materials, or on a driveway or a sidewalk.
- Fires are caused by careless handling of fireworks in areas exposed to sparks or live fireworks and improper disposal.
- **NEVER** dispose of fireworks in a garage or building.
- Soak spent or "dud" fireworks and sparklers in a large bucket of water for at least 20 minutes or overnight to ensure they are thoroughly cooled and extinguished.
- Keep spectators a safe distance away from fireworks at a minimum of 25 feet.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case sparks start a fire.
- **DO NOT** place used fireworks in a combustible container.
- **NEVER** aim or throw fireworks at another person.
- **NEVER** try to re-ignite fireworks that malfunction or fail to go off.
- **DO NOT** wear loose clothing when using fireworks.
- **NEVER** experiment or make your own fireworks.
- **KEEP** pets inside or away from the area when in use.

For a list of permissible fireworks and approved fireworks stands, in Prince William County, visit www.pwcva.gov/department/fire-marshals-office/permissible-fireworks.

For additional fireworks safety tips, visit the [National Safety Council](http://www.nsc.org) (NSC), [Consumer Product Safety Commission](http://www.cpsc.gov) (CPSC), and the [National Fire Protection Association](http://www.nfpa.org) (NFPA).

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