



**For Immediate Release:**

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**State Fire Marshal Offers Fireworks Safety Tips**

State Fire Marshal Bert Polk is urging citizens to stay safe if participating in any fireworks activities during the July 4th holiday.

“You cannot take safety for granted when it comes to fireworks,” Polk said. “We want everyone to have fun, but safety precautions must come first.”

For those choosing to use consumer fireworks, the State Fire Marshal suggests these safety tips:

- Observe local laws. If unsure whether it is legal to use fireworks, check with local officials.
- Buy from fireworks retailers permitted through the Fire Marshal’s Office.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Always have an adult present when shooting fireworks.
- Use common sense and always read and follow the directions on each firework.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass, and trees.
- Light one firework at a time and keep a safe distance.
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Put used fireworks in a bucket of water; keep a garden hose on hand.

“There are hundreds of permitted professional fireworks displays available to South Carolinians to enjoy during the Fourth of July holiday,” Polk said. “Residents can consult their local fire officials for displays in their area.”