



## SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE

a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

### Office of State Fire Marshal

141 Monticello Trail • Columbia, SC 29203

(803) 896-9800

[www.statefire.llr.sc.gov](http://www.statefire.llr.sc.gov)

#### For Immediate Release:

Contact: Amy Williamson, Public Information Officer  
(803) 429-4201

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### State Fire Marshal Reminds South Carolinians to Celebrate Safely This Fourth of July

As Independence Day approaches, South Carolina State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones urges South Carolinians to prioritize safety when using fireworks. Each year, fireworks cause thousands of injuries nationwide, many of them preventable.

"Fireworks can be a festive way to celebrate and show patriotism, but they must be used responsibly," said State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones. "Unsafe use of fireworks presents the potential for injury or fire. Taking a few simple safety steps can prevent a tragedy."

Whether using consumer fireworks at home or attending a public display, residents are encouraged to keep the following tips in mind:

- Observe local laws. If unsure whether it is legal to use fireworks in your jurisdiction, check with local officials.
- Observe local weather conditions. Dry weather can make it easier for fireworks to start a fire.
- Buy from permitted fireworks retailers.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Always have an adult present when shooting fireworks.
- Use common sense. Always read and follow the directions on each firework.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass, and trees.
- Ensure people and pets are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and keep a safe distance.
- Put used fireworks in a bucket of water; keep a garden hose on hand.

#### Never:

- Point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Give fireworks to small children.
- Carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Shoot fireworks from metal or glass containers.
- 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.

Residents are also encouraged to consider attending a public fireworks display conducted by trained professionals. "There's no safer way to enjoy fireworks than at a permitted professional show," said Jones. "Watching a public display is a great way to protect your loved ones and support local fire safety efforts."

South Carolina law prohibits fireworks from being sold to anyone younger than 16.

For more information on fireworks safety, please visit:

<https://firesafe.sc.gov/weekly/updatedweekly/Firework-Safety.pdf>



*Our mission is to be the focal point for service and support to save lives and property.*