

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fourth of July Fireworks Reminder

With the Fourth of July holiday weekend fast approaching, The City of Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind residents that the use or sale of fireworks in the City of Suffolk is prohibited by City Code.

The Code states, "It shall be a violation of this Code for any person to store, to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, or use or explode any fireworks. Fireworks include, but are not limited to, firecrackers, skyrockets, torpedoes, sparklers, or any other fireworks which explode, travel laterally, rise into the air, or fire projectiles into the air."

According to Acting Fire Marshal, James N. Dickens, "There are many risks associated with the use, manufacture, and storage of fireworks. Fireworks labeled "Safe and sane" are neither. By design, fireworks and sparklers will explode or throw off showers of hot sparks with temperatures possibly exceeding 1200 degrees."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) notes that, on a typical Independence Day, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for half of those fires. In 2005, fireworks caused an estimated 1,800 total structure fires and 700 vehicle fires reported to fire departments. These 2,500 fires resulted in an estimated 60 civilian injuries and \$39 million in direct property damage.

In 2006, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,200 people for fireworks related injuries.

The City of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department and the NFPA encourage people to enjoy public displays of fireworks. The Suffolk Parks and Recreation Department will host this year's Stars and Stripes Spectacular at Constant's Wharf Park and Marina starting at 6 p.m. Events will conclude with the fireworks display at 9 p.m. Those fireworks will be launched from a barge on the Nansemond River.

The Crittenden, Eclipse, and Hobson Ruritan Club & Ebenezer United Methodist Church Fourth of July Celebration will also feature fireworks. Held at Ebenezer United Methodist Church located at Route 17 and Eclipse Drive, the fireworks display will cap a day full of events. The fireworks event will start at 9 p.m.

For more information on fireworks safety, please contact the Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office at 514-7540.

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