



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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Released on June 26, 2018

Fireworks Safety over the 4th of July Holiday Week

Niles, IL - With the upcoming Fourth of July holiday, the Niles Police Department reminds residents to leave fireworks to the experts. Many injuries and fires occur each year from these devices and therefore should be used only by trained professionals.

Fireworks pose a danger to users and bystanders of all ages. As the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) explains, fireworks were responsible for an estimated 11,400 injuries and eight deaths in 2013. Injuries typically result from the user playing with lit fireworks or igniting fireworks while holding the device. Injuries can also be sustained from device malfunctions, such as errant flight paths, devices that tip over and blowouts.

It's also important to consider military veterans who may possibly suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. That applies to a lot of Americans, as one in five of the approximately 2.5 million veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan -- or approximately 500,000 former military members -- have been diagnosed with PTSD, a psychiatric disorder caused by experiencing or witnessing life-threatening events like military combat, experts say.

It causes some sufferers to relive the trauma. In others, it provokes feeling of isolation or rage. And in other cases, it leads to substance abuse, depression and a host of other psychological and physical problems.

Those at the greatest risk of injury are young children under the age of nine. Children often come in contact with devices that are perceived to be less powerful, such as sparklers and bottle rockets. However, all fireworks have the potential for causing damage and injury. Sparklers, for instance, burn at temperatures of above 1,200 degrees – temperatures high enough to melt glass.

Lastly, so many pets are frightened and try to escape the sights and sounds that animal shelters around the nation report a dramatic increase in lost pets during the holiday. In fact, July 4th pets are more likely to run away than any other day.

Here are some quick tips to help your pets:

- Consider taking a night trip in the car to a remote getaway.
- Board your pets for the night in an out-of-the-way facility.
- Sound-proof and white-noise your house starting well in advance of the festivities. TVs, radios, heavy curtains, closed windows and lots of AC work wonders. Hanging out in the most cozy, shut-in room can handle the problem, too.

Fireworks are also responsible for extensive property damage every year due to inexperienced handlers and a lack of safety precautions. They are volatile devices that are hard to predict before, during, and after use. Illegal and homemade fireworks meet no safety standards and extreme caution should be taken if these items are found.

Under the Illinois Fireworks Act (425ILCS 35/1), it is illegal to possess, purchase or use consumer fireworks without a consumer display permit obtained from local authorities. Help prevent accidents for you and your family by avoiding explosives and leaving fireworks to trained professionals.

Village Ordinance - Sec. 46-162. Sale; use; explosion of fireworks prohibited; public displays; permits. Except as provided in this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly possess, offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, or use or explode any fireworks, provided that the president and board of trustees shall have the power to adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the granting of permits for supervised public displays of fireworks. Every such display shall be handled by a competent individual designated by the local authorities specified in this section, and such displays shall be of such a character and so located, discharged and fired as not to be hazardous to property, or endanger any person. Application for permits shall be made in writing to the village clerk at least 15 days in advance of the date of the display, and action shall be taken on such application within 48 hours after such application is made. After such privilege has been granted, sales, possession, use, and distribution of fireworks for such display shall be lawful for that purpose only. No permit granted under this section shall be transferable.