



News Release

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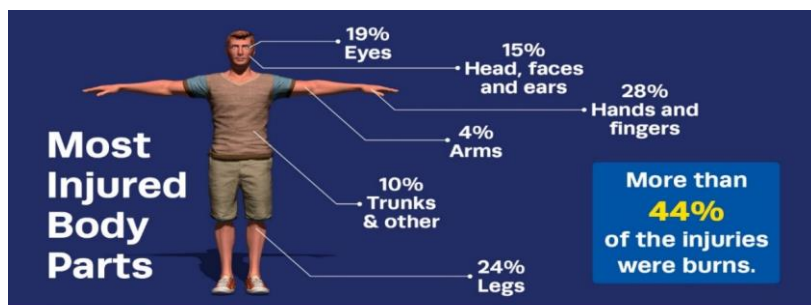
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frederick County Public Safety Divisions Provide Safety Tips for Fourth of July

(Frederick County, MD, June 28, 2023) – In preparation of the upcoming Independence Day holiday, the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, Frederick City Police Department, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, and Emergency Communications are partnering to provide the Frederick County community with some safety Tips.

Every year, fireworks start [approximately 18,500 fires](#) and cause around \$43 million in direct property damage nationwide. Fireworks are responsible for an estimated [12,900 emergency room](#) injuries each year.



#CelebrateSafely

Frederick County's Public Safety Agencies are encouraging families to attend professional, public fireworks displays this Independence Day. Attending a public fireworks display is the only safe way to honor our tradition, our shared values, and our hopes for a healthy future.

If you elect to forgo the professional fireworks displays and celebrate closer to home we want to remind you that ground based sparklers are the ONLY legal and permitted 'fireworks' that can be used in Frederick County. If you plan to celebrate using sparklers, please remember the following safety tips:

1. **Light one sparkler at a time and never relight a dud** – If too many sparklers are lit at one time, it can cause confusion about which ones are active, leading to possible injury or fire. Duds can malfunction and explode improperly if you try to relight them. It is best to douse them with water to ensure they are fully extinguished.
2. **Beware of allowing young children to play with sparklers** – Fireworks or sparklers can reach [temperatures of more than 1200 degrees](#), which can cause third degree burns. For a fun and flame-free way to light up the night, consider picking up a few glow sticks for young kids to play with.
3. **Keep pets indoors** – Pets can become distressed when sparklers/fireworks are launched and this can create more confusion and chaos, increasing the risk they will run loose or get injured. Pets should be kept inside and as far away as possible from fireworks.
4. **Keep a fire extinguisher nearby** – Be careful of how you dispose of sparklers and make sure you always have a fire extinguisher or water hose on hand. Once sparklers have stopped working, they are still extremely hot and need to be cooled off with water or a fire extinguisher so they can be disposed of properly.
5. **Only purchase approved sparklers** – APPROVED sparklers will note the following:



In 2022 over the holiday weekend the Emergency Communications Center received almost 200 firework complaints from citizens within Frederick County. This year law enforcement as well as the Frederick County Fire Marshal's Office will be strategically located throughout the county in an effort to curtail illegal firework use. Any residents found to be celebrating with fireworks other than the approved sparklers can be issued a citation with subsequent fines and all illegal products will be confiscated.

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We would also like to remind residents and visitors to enjoy the festivities responsibly by designating a sober driver or utilizing alternative transportation options to prevent alcohol-related incidents. Please be advised that law enforcement agencies will be conducting increased traffic enforcement during the holiday to ensure a safe and enjoyable celebration for everyone.

Here's to wishing all of our Frederick County community members a safe and happy fourth of July.

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