



News Release

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Thomas DiBernardo, Fire Chief

Celebrate the Fourth of July Safely!

(SUNRISE, FL)- The Fourth of July is a day to celebrate our nation's independence! Sunrise Fire-Rescue urges residents to celebrate safely by leaving the fireworks to the professionals.

Each July 4th, in addition to seeing more fires than on any other day of the year, thousands of people are injured by fireworks. Children and teens are the most at risk for the often devastating – and sometimes fatal – burns, eye injuries, and other trauma. The vast majority of these injuries are from fireworks legally purchased by consumers for their own private use.

Despite a broad cultural perception of playing with fireworks as being a wholesome and even obligatory tradition, the risks remain. Even seemingly harmless sparklers can burn at a temperature of 1200°, easily hot enough to cause third-degree burns. Along with small firecrackers, they account for the highest percentage of injuries of all other consumer fireworks.

Instead, offer children glow sticks, and “attend a public fireworks display put on by experts,” said Fire Chief Thomas DiBernardo. “Fireworks can be dangerous, and you’re a lot safer watching them rather than trying to light them yourself. Plus, you’re going to see a better show.”

The City of Sunrise 4th of July Celebration is held at the BB&T Center from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This free, outdoor event features children's rides and activities, a variety of food and retail vendors, a concert featuring The Fixx and A Flock of Seagulls, and a spectacular fireworks display.

During the festivities, keep your pets indoors to reduce the chance of them getting loose or injured. With their sensitive hearing, animals can become extremely frightened by the noise from the fireworks.

Finally, remember that you can help make Sunrise a safer community year-round by learning CPR. Go to www.heart.org/handsonlycpr, and in just one minute, you can learn the two simple steps of Hands-Only™ CPR.

For more information and safety tips, visit the City of Sunrise website at www.sunrisefl.gov, 'Like' us on Facebook at Sunrise-Rescue, and follow us on Twitter@SunriseFRD. In the event of an emergency, always dial 9-1-1 immediately.