



News Release

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Thomas DiBernardo, Fire Chief

Fireworks Safety: Don't Blow It!

(SUNRISE, FL)- As Americans celebrate Independence Day with daytime barbeques and evening fireworks, Sunrise Fire-Rescue urges residents to use caution.

Cooking fires are always a concern. So, if you'll be grilling up burgers and hotdogs this holiday weekend, be sure to use your grill outdoors and away from your house. Avoid being under the eaves of the roof, or being near deck railings or tree branches. Never leave your grill unattended, and keep children and pets out of the area.

The 4th of July also presents significant hazards that come with fireworks. An average of 230 people goes to the emergency room *each day* from June 20th to July 20th due to injuries resulting from fireworks, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's annual reports. The majority of these injuries are from fireworks legally purchased by consumers for their own private use. During this time last year, three high-profile injuries took place in Broward County: NY Giants star defensive end and Deerfield native Jason Pierre-Paul lost his right index finger, a 24-year-old Dania Beach man lost his left hand, and a 13-year-old boy lost his right hand and vision in his left eye - all while handling fireworks. Children and teens are especially risk for the potentially devastating burns and blast trauma. Even seemingly-harmless sparklers can reach temperatures up to 2000° as they burn – typically while held in the hands of small children.

For this reason, and because more fires are reported on July 4th than on any other day of the year, the National Fire Protection Association urges people to instead enjoy fireworks at a professional display. Echoing this stance, Sunrise Fire Chief Thomas DiBernardo tells residents, "People forget that fireworks are really explosives. Leave them to the experts and enjoy July 4th safely."

One such professional fireworks show can be seen during the City of Sunrise's 4th of July Celebration at the BB&T Center, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This free outdoor event also offers children's rides and activities, a variety of food and retail vendors, and a concert featuring local rock favorite Havoc 305 and headlined by Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

During the festivities, please 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. After the celebrations, owners are often surprised to find their pets have escaped what were believed to be secure outdoor enclosures, or the pets have caused harm to property or to themselves in their panic.

For more information, please visit the Fire-Rescue page on www.sunrisefl.gov,
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