



News Release

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CELEBRATE JULY 4TH SAFELY

(SUNRISE, FL)- For Americans, Independence Day celebrations entwine patriotic pageantry with classic summertime recreation. Amidst the barbecues and evening fireworks, safety must be remembered, too.

The National Fire Protection Association cites that fireworks cause more than 18,500 fires annually, and that more fires are reported on July 4th than on any other day of the year. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an average of 230 people – mostly male - go to the emergency room with injuries from fireworks *each day* between June 20th - July 20th. Children and teens are especially at risk to incur burns and other injuries – some of which can be devastating and even fatal.

The majority of the injuries are from fireworks purchased legally by consumers for private use. Sunrise Fire Chief Thomas DiBernardo tells residents, “That sparkler in your child’s hand burns at up 2000° - *more* than enough to cause serious harm if it’s mishandled. Skip the backyard pyrotechnics, and go enjoy a professional fireworks display.”

Fortunately, a spectacular fireworks show will be presented at the City of Sunrise’s annual 4th of July Celebration. Held at the BB&T Center from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., this FREE outdoor event also offers children’s activities, food and retail vendors, and a concert (this year’s lineup features Junkanoo band-turned-architects of the ubiquitous stadium anthem, the Baha Men, and infectious power pop chart-toppers of the 80s, the Romantics!).

Whatever your plans, please secure your pets indoors during the festivities to reduce the chance of them getting loose or injured. With their sensitive hearing, animals can become extremely frightened by the noise from fireworks. After the celebrations, owners are often surprised to find their pets have escaped their usual enclosures, and sometimes causing harm to property or to themselves in their panic.

Finally, remember that fireworks aren’t the holiday’s only hazard; cooking fires are also a concern. If you’ll be grilling up burgers and hotdogs, be sure to use your grill outdoors and away from your house. Avoid being near the eaves of the roof, deck railings, or tree branches. Never leave your grill unattended, and keep children and pets out of the area.

For more information, please visit www.sunrisefl.gov/Fire,
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