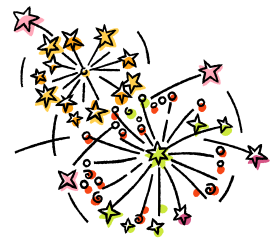


# ARE YOU READY to enjoy fireworks safely?



July 4<sup>th</sup> is looming on all calendars and our attention will soon be turning towards our barbeques and fireworks. But our attention should also be focused on safety in the midst of our fun.

## ARE YOU READY?      --Plan -Prepare – Practice – Stay Informed--

**Plan.** Create a plan for your family's fireworks celebrations.

- If you're planning on using consumer fireworks, take inventory to be sure the ones you're planning on using are both legal and safe. Consult the Minnesota Department of Public Safety webpage for a list of fireworks legal in Minnesota.
- If planning on viewing a public aerial fireworks display, be sure to choose a safe place for you and your family to sit. The safest place to be is at least 500 feet away from the staging area.

**Prepare.** Make sure family members know of firework safety rules before the holiday.

**Practice.** Be sure family members are behaving in a safe way when in the presence of fireworks.

- Always supervise children when around fireworks.
- Wear proper clothing, shoes, and tie long hair back to prevent burns and injury when dealing with fireworks.
- Avoid severely dry areas of grass when burning fireworks, sparklers, party poppers, etc.
- If you see any illegal firework activity, call 9-1-1 immediately. Illegal fireworks include anything that 'bangs' or goes up in the air.
- Have a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case an uncontrolled fire begins from the fireworks.
- If there is any injury that occurs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

**Stay Informed.** Remain informed on current practices for firework operation.

- Know current Minnesota laws for buying and operating fireworks.
- Remain up-to-date with fireworks recall information to prevent severe property damage or injury due to faulty products.

### **Resources:**

- Check these websites for further firework information:
  - The Minnesota Safety Council at <http://www.mnsafetycouncil.org/facts/f-facts.cfm?FS=55&BAK=f-categ.cfm&CID=1>
  - The Minnesota Department of Public Safety at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/FireworksInfo.html>
- Contact the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division at [firecode@state.mn.us](mailto:firecode@state.mn.us) or (651) 201-7200 with any questions or concerns about your 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations.