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# NEWS RELEASE

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## CELEBRATE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY SAFELY

The Mount Prospect Fire Department would like to remind all residents that the Village of Mount Prospect prohibits all types of fireworks, including sparklers. The Village of Mount Prospect Fire Prevention Code prohibits the use, purchase, and possession of fireworks. Fines for use of fireworks can range from \$500 to \$2,500 per incident.

All fireworks are dangerous and can result in serious burns, hearing loss and many other serious injuries. In addition, fireworks have led to a number of fires that have caused significant property damage. Thousands of people, mostly children, are seriously injured every single year due to illegal fireworks use, one-third of these result in permanent eye damage. According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2019 there were more than 9,000 people treated for fireworks-related injuries. In 2018, according to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks started an estimated 19,500 fires. Contrary to popular belief, sparklers are not a safe alternative as they can reach temperatures of up to 1800°F. Sparklers remain hot even after they are extinguished potentially causing burns. Fireworks should only be used by professionals with proper permits and training. Although the usual community fireworks displays are cancelled this year due to COVID-19, it is still important to celebrate safely.

Mount Prospect Fire Chief, Brian Lambel said, "It is important that we remain vigilant and safe during the July 4th celebrations. Fireworks injuries and home fires caused by fireworks are always a concern for the Fire Department during this time of year. The Fire Department wants to ensure you and your family are safe during 4th of July. Please do not use fireworks!"

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Instead of fireworks, you can celebrate the holiday safely by using glow sticks, glow in the dark toys, flashlights and party poppers.

The Mount Prospect Fire Department wishes you a safe Fourth of July celebration. For any questions regarding fireworks or any other fire safety questions please contact the Mount Prospect Fire Department at 847-818-5253.

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