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NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: June 28, 2021

Contact: Chief John Dolan, 847/870-5660

Subject: Staying Safe During the Fourth of July Celebrations

Celebrating the July Fourth weekend is synonymous with barbecues, friends and sunshine. The Mount Prospect Fire Department would like to remind all residents that the Mount Prospect Fire Prevention Code prohibits the use, purchase, and possession of fireworks (including sparklers). 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.

Mount Prospect Fire Chief, John Dolan said, "As a community we need to stay safe, especially during the Fourth of July celebrations. Fireworks are not toys and should only be used by professionals. The Fire Department wants to make sure that you and your entire family are safe, especially during Fourth of July weekend. Please do not use Fireworks!"

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 Prevention Department at 847-818-5253. The Mount Prospect Fire Department would like to remind residents to continue checking their smoke alarms. A properly working smoke alarm is essential in early fire detection and increases your chances of survival.

For more information, visit www.mountprospect.org or call 847/870-5660.

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