



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, June 30

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Fire Marshal

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## **MAKE SAFETY FIRST WITH FIREWORKS**

*Burnsville Fire Department reminds you to know the law and use common sense*

Minnesota may have changed its laws regarding consumer fireworks recently, however, the one thing that will never change is the need for common sense and safety in their use. The Burnsville Fire Department wants all those who use fireworks to do so safely, and to follow the state regulations.

The state law basically forbids two types of fireworks, those that either explode or are projected. Examples of prohibited items include firecrackers, torpedoes, missiles, skyrocket, bottle rockets, roman candles, daygo bombs, mines and shells, chasers, and parachutes.

Legal fireworks are gaining in popularity but with that use come safety concerns. Examples of legal fireworks include:

- Wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of pyrotechnic composition per item.
- Ground-based sparkling devices which are non-explosive and non aerial, and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 200 grams or less for multiple tube items and include: fountains, cones, illuminating torches, wheels, ground spinners, flitter sparklers, flash / strobes, and novelty devices including snakes, glow worms, trick noisemakers, party poppers, and snappers.

The following safety guidelines are offered to reduce fireworks injuries, fires and nuisance complaints:

- Read, understand and follow the instructions on each device prior to using.
- Use fireworks with close adult supervision.
- Choose a safe place to use fireworks that is far from anything that could be damaged from the normal or abnormal operation of any device. Fireworks
- Anyone acting in an irresponsible manner or who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs should not handle or discharge fireworks.
- Keep fireworks away from children and store them in a cool dry location away from sources of ignition (heat and flames). Fireworks should not be allowed to become wet and should not be used when dried after becoming wet.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or on your person.

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- Lit cigarettes, cigars, pipes or open flames should be kept away from fireworks that are for sale or when stored.
- Never ignite fireworks inside another container, such as inside a bottle or can.
- Eye protection is recommended for those using fireworks. Never throw fireworks or aim them at another person, animal or building.
- Only light one firework device at a time, then move away from the device quickly. Keep clear of any device that has been ignited, but has yet to go off.
- If a firework device has been ignited but fails to go off, stay clear of the device for an extended period of time to prevent injury due to delayed activation. Soak the device in water before handling it.
- Never place any part of your body, especially your head, over the firework device when lighting. Approach the item from the side and light while keeping your body away from the item.
- Never relight malfunctioning fireworks. Report any defects back to the seller or the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Never experiment with fireworks, make your own fireworks, or alter fireworks in any manner (a strong federal prohibition exists for such activity).

For more information on fireworks safety please contact Captain Doug Nelson, Burnsville Fire Marshal at 952-895-4579.

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