



## Fire Department

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### Press Release

### Fireworks

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Fireworks displays are most common this time of year, around Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Troy Fire Department reminds everyone that fireworks must be handled with care.

Each year the Consumers Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates there are nearly 10,000 injuries from fireworks with almost half of these in children under the age of 15. Most of these injuries occur in the weeks surrounding the celebration of our nation's independence. The CPSC has found that *"...60 percent of all fireworks injuries were sustained during the 30 days surrounding the Independence Day holiday. More than half of these injuries were the result of unexpected ignition of the device or consumers not using fireworks as intended."* See [CPSC Fireworks Report](#).

Fireworks are unpredictable, their paths may be erratic, and they may launch unexpectedly. For those planning to use fireworks this holiday season, the CPSC and the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) recommend the following basic safety rules:

- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Always have an adult supervise all fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children can suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals. Leave the sparklers for older children – 12 and up, or skip them altogether.
- Never pick up an unexploded device or relight a "dud" firework. It may still be burning – even if you cannot see it. Squirt water on it from a distance, if possible. Place it in water after 20 minutes and let it soak.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in plain brown paper. This is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Buy only legal fireworks; never make your own. Here's a link to see what is legal in Michigan: [Michigan Legal Fireworks](#)
- Always have a bucket of water and/or hose nearby.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket, or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.

Since the passage of the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act of 2011, consumer grade fireworks have been available for public use. The Act was amended in 2013 and the city of Troy adopted an ordinance to prevent the use of fireworks between the hours of 11 PM and 8:00 AM, except on January 1<sup>st</sup> when the Act allows the time of use to be extended to 1:00 AM.

The Troy ordinance also restricts the use of fireworks to the day before, the day of, and the day after a national holiday. Any other time of the year the use of fireworks is illegal. If using fireworks this coming holiday season, please be considerate of your neighbors before deciding when and where to use fireworks.

Violations of the ordinance should be reported to the Police Department, as prescribed by the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act. Fire safety concerns should be reported to the Fire Department.

The City of Troy, CPSC and the APA all want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday celebration. Fireworks are best viewed from afar and left to the professionals. To find where fireworks displays will occur in Michigan, search [www.michiganfireworks.com](http://www.michiganfireworks.com) by city, by county or by date.

Questions regarding this release can be directed to Lt. Tonya Perry at 248-524-3419, or via email at: [perrytj@troymi.gov](mailto:perrytj@troymi.gov).