

Enjoying Fireworks Safely

Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department

Everyone enjoys watching fireworks on the 4th of July. But fireworks can be dangerous. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that 6,500 people were treated in emergency rooms across the country due to injuries caused by fireworks during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, according to the latest data from 2005. There were 10,800 firework-related injuries for the entire year, an increase of 1,400 injuries from 2004.

The Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department urges you to use care with fireworks and follow these important safety tips:

- Only use fire works outdoors.
- Read and follow all instructions on fireworks.
- Obey all local laws when using fireworks.
- Children should be under close supervision when fireworks are being used. Only adults should ignite the fireworks.
- Always have a bucket of water or sand nearby.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.
- Never try to reignite used or faulty fireworks.

Enjoy Independence Day celebrations by using fireworks safely or consider a safer option: enjoy public displays of fireworks conducted by trained professionals.

For more information about fireworks in Minnesota, go to:
<http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/FireworksInfo.html>