

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY OF PORTAGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY URGES CAUTION THIS FOURTH OF JULY

Do you know that reported fires more than double on the 4th of July over any other day of the year in the United States? Thousands of people, most often children and teens, are severely injured or killed while using consumer fireworks. The Portage Department of Public Safety advises Portage residents of the following tips to enjoy a safe and fun holiday.

1. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend public displays conducted by trained professionals. Residents of the City of Portage and surrounding areas can view fireworks sponsored by the Portage Rotary Club on Wednesday, July 4, at McCamley Field, beginning at dusk. The Department of Public Safety – Fire Division will assist with necessary fire and safety precautions to ensure the display at McCamley Field takes place without incident.
2. Most fireworks, including sparklers and firecrackers, burn at a temperature of more than 1200 degrees Fahrenheit – a temperature hot enough to cause third degree burns. If you plan to use consumer fireworks this season, no person under the age of 18 shall handle and discharge fireworks. At minimum, eye, face, ear and hand protection should be worn by anyone using fireworks.
3. Sufficient water supply or means of extinguishing fires must be in place prior to the ignition of fireworks. Because of the increased potential for fires to occur, consumer fireworks are only to be used on private property in a controlled manner and in accordance with state law. In other words, you are responsible for controlling where fireworks are ignited, and if airborne, where they land.

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In addition to these tips, the recent extreme hot and dry weather presents a significant fire danger across the area. Please take into consideration the potential life safety and fire hazards before igniting fireworks. For other tips and safety advisories, visit Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov, United States Fire Administration at www.usfa.fema.gov, or contact the Portage Department of Public Safety – Fire Division at 329-4487.

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