



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Portage Department of Public Safety Urges Caution This Fourth of July

The State of Michigan fireworks law allows the use of consumer fireworks from June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 PM on each of those days. The Portage Department of Public Safety advises Portage residents to use caution to ensure an enjoyable and safe Fourth of July holiday.

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 should handle and discharge fireworks. At a minimum, eye, face, ear, and hand protection should be worn by anyone using fireworks.

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.

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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