



# MIAMI BEACH

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MIAMI BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS FIREWORKS SAFETY -- *They Urge You to Leave Fireworks to the Professionals* --

**Miami Beach, Florida** – According to John R. Hall, Jr. of the National Fire Protection Association, more U.S. fires are reported on Independence Day than any other day, and fireworks account for half of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

In 2007, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,800 people for fireworks-related injuries. The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages five to nine or 10-14 as for the general population. Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for 36% of the emergency room fireworks injuries in 2007. Two of five (42%) people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15. "Safe and sane" fireworks are neither. Fireworks and sparklers are designed to explode or throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200° F. Ninety-two percent of the fireworks injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms involved fireworks that federal regulations permit consumers to use.

Across the U.S. in 2006, fireworks caused an estimated 32,600 reported fires, including 1,700 total structure fires, 600 vehicle fires, and 30,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated six civilian deaths, 70 civilian injuries and \$34 million in direct property damage.

The following tips will help you decide if you should include fireworks in your family celebration of Independence Day:

- The "best practice" is to attend only professional public fireworks displays. These public displays require a fireworks permit issued by the Fire Marshal's Office.
- Outdoor private/home fireworks celebrations that use fireworks that emit a loud bang and/or leave the ground are illegal in the State of Florida.
- Sparklers are devices which emit showers of sparks, are hand-held or ground-based, cannot propel themselves through the air, and are approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Only devices included in the List of Sparklers and other novelty items approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office can be legally purchased and used for private and/or home celebration purposes in the State of Florida.
- Buy sparklers only from reliable and licensed sellers. Any sparkler that does not have a clearly printed manufacturer's name and address and cautionary labeling is very likely to be ILLEGALLY MADE and very dangerous. Avoid these devices.
- Adults should always supervise the use of sparklers. Always read and follow label directions.

- Sparks and smoldering embers from sparklers can start fires. Light them only in a large open outdoor space on a hard level surface well away from anything combustible. Have a fire extinguisher, filled water buckets or a charged water hose nearby and ready for emergencies.
- Never use sparklers in neighborhood backyards or other crowded areas.
- Always light sparklers one at a time.

For more information on the Florida Law for Sale of Fireworks, please refer to [www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes). For more information on the approved list of Sparklers, please refer to [www.fldfs.com/sfm](http://www.fldfs.com/sfm)

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