

City of Alpena

News Release of July 2, 2008



FIREWORKS: DON'T GET BURNED!

On the 4th of July, we all need to ensure fireworks safety. Between 2000 and 2006, 49 people were killed nationwide while using fireworks. In Michigan, the deadly nature of fireworks struck close to home on July 4, 2007, when a Melvindale mother of three was killed after being struck by a commercial-grade firework. In 2007, there were 10,800 people injured by fireworks in the U.S., with children under the age of 15 accounting for one-third of those injuries. A CPSC study found that firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers caused the bulk of emergency room-treated injuries. Sparklers can burn at temperatures exceeding 1200 degrees Fahrenheit!

CONTACT

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SAFETY TIPS FOR USING FIREWORKS

- Always read and follow label directions.
- Have an adult present.
- Use outdoors only.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Use legal fireworks only.