

Fireworks Safety Tips from Fairburn Fire Department



The Fairburn Fire Department recommends that residents attend one of the many professional public firework displays put on at various locations around the Metro Atlanta area each 4th of July.

If one chooses to use fireworks, they should be sure to follow the recommendations below by the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- ◆ Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks. Only those 18 and older can legally use fireworks in Georgia.
- ◆ Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- ◆ Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals.
- ◆ Never place any part of one's body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- ◆ Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ◆ Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- ◆ Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.

- ◆Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- ◆Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- ◆After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.

Pets

Fireworks can mean misery for pets. Thousands are sedated every year after being frightened by fireworks. Others are so distraught they bolt and get lost or injured.

Keep pets indoors, close the curtains and play music to drown out the noise. Make sure one's pet is wearing a collar and tag and is microchipped in case it bolts and becomes lost.

Fireworks can still be enjoyed if at the same time care and consideration are given to pets, livestock and animals living in the surrounding area.

The Fairburn Fire Department warns that people choosing to use fireworks should be cognizant of their responsibility to discharge them safely without endangering other people or property.

Residents have a legal duty to exercise reasonable care in using fireworks and are presumed to intend the natural and probable consequences of their acts. As a result, they may be subject to potential criminal and/or civil liability for any damage to people or property resulting from their use of fireworks.