



FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 30, 2011

TO: All News Media

FROM: Fire Prevention / Inspection Division, phone (715) 839-4825

SUBJECT: FIREWORKS SAFETY / ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

In Wisconsin, each year illegal fireworks are sold to the general public. Illegal fireworks are defined as anything that explodes or propels into the air. These fireworks can only be purchased with a permit that has been signed by a City official. The City of Eau Claire **does not** issue any permits to the public for this purpose.

With July 4th approaching quickly, many fireworks sales stands are available throughout the city of Eau Claire. City fire inspectors have been inspecting all fireworks vendors including convenience, department, and grocery stores, which are required to have a City fireworks permit. All items that are being sold in the city of Eau Claire have been inspected, and to the best of the inspector's knowledge are legal to possess and discharge when done in a safe and proper manner. An individual must be 18 years of age to purchase fireworks in the city of Eau Claire.

The following are some guidelines to help make your July 4th a safe holiday:

- Do purchase fireworks legally from a reliable seller.
- Do have an adult present to supervise all fireworks activity.
- Do inspect fireworks carefully before using.
- Do have a fire extinguisher or water nearby when setting off fireworks.
- Do ignite fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from buildings, vehicles, and shrubbery.
- Do shoot fireworks off from a hard paved surface in a wide open area.
- Do keep spectators 25 to 100 feet away from the firing site.
- Do light fireworks one at a time—with your body not positioned over the fireworks.
- Do wear a long-sleeve shirt and pants, as well as safety glasses.
- Do step out of the way quickly after lighting fireworks.
- Do dispose of fireworks properly by dousing them in water immediately.