



NEWS

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HUDGENS URGES CAUTION WITH FIREWORKS

Atlanta – As the July Fourth holiday approaches, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens is urging residents to use extreme caution to avoid fires and serious injuries when using fireworks this Independence Day.

“The safest way to enjoy fireworks, is to attend a public fireworks display,” Commissioner Hudgens said. “Each year in the U.S., around 8,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries.”

In 2015, the sale and use of most consumer types of fireworks, which includes firecrackers, skyrockets and roman candles, became legal to use in Georgia. Last year 59 fireworks related incidents were reported across the state.

Commissioner Hudgens offers the following fireworks safety suggestions:

- Purchase fireworks from a licensed fireworks dealer.
- Observe all state laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Read the labels carefully before igniting any fireworks.
- Ensure that an adult supervises all firework activities.
- Never allow children to ignite fireworks.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Only use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- Never try to relight a firework.
- Have a garden hose or bucket of water nearby.
- Use caution with animals. Excitement, noise and lights can cause fear and stress.

For more on laws governing the use of fireworks in Georgia, please contact your local fire department.