



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Friday, June 29, 2018

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FCSO Urges Citizens to Practice Firework Safety

This 4th of July Remember...

FIREWORK SAFETY

- Only purchase fireworks approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- Only adults should be permitted to light fireworks.
- Use fireworks a safe distance away from homes, cars, etc.
- Assign a person to observe for vehicle traffic for safety.
- Do not allow children to set off fireworks or be in close distance.
- If the fireworks you purchased are not performing properly, discontinue use immediately.
- Keep a water hose nearby in case of igniting a grass fire, or any type of fire.
- Do not ignite any fireworks in your hands. All fireworks should be ignited on the ground.
- Be cautious of loose clothing when lighting fireworks. Be prepared to extinguish a fire quickly. REMEMBER: Stop, drop, and roll.

Sheriff Rick Staly

Did you know that any fireworks that explode or launch into the air are illegal in the State of Florida and that the Agricultural Exemption you may sign when purchasing fireworks is not appropriate if you plan on using your fireworks in a residential areas? The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is urging residents to practice firework safety and learn the laws BEFORE setting off your fireworks this year.

FCSO wants residents to know that signing a waiver will not clear you of responsibility should you be caught illegally using fireworks in Flagler County. The illegal use of any firework in the State of Florida is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a **\$1,000** fine.

"We want everyone in Flagler County to be safe and obey the law. These waivers will not help you if a

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Deputy Sheriff finds you using illegal fireworks this 4th of July or any time of the year and last year we had two children seriously hurt, one with life altering injuries,” Sheriff Staly said. “If you want to set off any fireworks in a residential area ask the seller if the fireworks are approved by the State Fire Marshalls Office – if they don’t know then don’t buy them! If you choose to use legal fireworks at your residence, remember to be safe!”

The best way to stay out of trouble is to leave it up to the professionals and watch one of the fantastic firework shows we will have in Flagler County. You can watch ‘Fireworks in the Park’ at Town Center in Palm Coast July 3rd at 9PM or the Flagler Beach Firework show on July 4th at 9PM.

If you choose to set off legal fireworks in a residential area always keep safety in mind:

- **Do not purchase illegal fireworks. Purchase only those approved by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.**
- **Only adults (18 years of age and above) should be permitted to light fireworks.**
- **Sparklers are a common firework related injury among children. They are of sufficient temperature to ignite clothing and cause serious burns to the skin as well. Only allow sparklers to be handled by those 12 years of age or older.**
- **If you choose to use "legal" fireworks at your residence, do so with safety in mind.**
- **Use fireworks a safe distance away from homes, cars, etc. •**
- **If using fireworks on the sidewalk or street area, assign a person to observe for vehicle traffic for safety.**
- **Closely supervise children during use of fireworks. Do not allow children to set off fireworks or be in close distance.**
- **If the fireworks you purchased are not performing properly, discontinue use immediately.**
- **Only purchase legal fireworks and read the safety warnings on the package.**
- **Keep a water hose nearby in case of igniting a grass fire, or any type of fire.**
- **Do not ignite any fireworks in your hands. All fireworks should be ignited on the ground.**
- **Be cautious of loose clothing when lighting fireworks. Be prepared to extinguish a fire quickly. REMEMBER: Stop, drop, and roll.**

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