

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA NOTE

Fire Officials Urge Care With Fireworks

The 2009 Oregon fireworks sales season opened June 23 and runs through July 6. Springfield Fire and Life Safety reminds everyone that all fireworks, even legal fireworks, are dangerous and should be used cautiously. In Oregon legal fireworks may only be purchased from permitted retailers and stands. "I would recommend attending public fireworks displays, but if you are going to use fireworks at home you should use legal fireworks carefully" says Springfield Fire Marshal Al Gerard.

Oregon law bans possession, use or sale of fireworks that fly, explode or travel more than six feet on the ground or 12 inches into the air. Fireworks commonly called bottle rockets, Roman Candles, and firecrackers are illegal in Oregon. (Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office)

Under Oregon law, officials may seize illegal fireworks and fine offenders up to \$500 per violation. Those who misuse fireworks or allow fireworks to cause damage are liable and may be required to pay fire suppression costs or other damage. Parents are also liable for fireworks damage caused by their children. (Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office)

(<http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/news/FireworksPressRelease2009.pdf>)

Modifying legal fireworks is also against the law and may lead to seizure and fines. It also increases the risk of injury and the possibility of starting a fire.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2007, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,800 people for fireworks related injuries. 49% of the 2007 fireworks injuries were burns, while 29% were contusions and lacerations. The risk

of fireworks injury was 2 ½ times as high for children ages 5-14 as for the general population.