



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Use fireworks responsibly this Independence Day; Sixty percent of firework injuries occur around the July Fourth holiday

Each year, fire departments across the country respond to emergencies resulting from the use of fireworks, including injuries, and wildland or structure fires. These incidents occur most often throughout the month surrounding the July Fourth holiday.

During this time, approximately 200 people are seen in emergency rooms each day with fireworks-related injuries. Fireworks can have a life-altering impact on consumers, including severe eye injuries; damage to and loss of limbs; and even death. Most injuries are burns; two-thirds of injuries are sustained by males; and the most injured body parts are (in order of frequency) hands and fingers, eyes, heads, faces, ears, legs, torso and arms.

In the City of Mt. Pleasant, the ordinance states a person may only discharge or use consumer fireworks on private property on the day before, the day of, and the day after a recognized holiday, but not between the hours of 1 and 8 a.m. On all other days of the year, fireworks may not be discharged within City limits.

Additionally, a minor shall not possess, ignite, discharge or use consumer fireworks. Fireworks shall not be used while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, or during times when a burning ban has been established by the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids, MI. For a list of burning restrictions by county, visit <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/>.

For those planning on discharging fireworks this July Fourth holiday, please follow the City regulations as stated above and practice these safety tips:

1. Read and follow all warning and instructions.
2. Never allow children to play with fireworks of any kind.
3. Wear protective clothing, including eye wear.
4. Only light devices on smooth, flat surfaces away from residential areas, dry leaves and flammable materials.
5. Always keep a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of malfunction.
6. Never try to re-light fireworks that have not fully functioned.

The best way to protect your family is to avoid the use fireworks at home entirely. The Mt. Pleasant Fire Department recommends attending public fireworks displays and leaving the lighting to the professionals!

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