
PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF SAGINAW REMINDS RESIDENTS OF FOURTH OF JULY SAFETY TIPS

July 1, 2020 SAGINAW, MI – As the July 4th holiday approaches, the City of Saginaw Fire Department is reminding the community to celebrate **safely**.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many community fireworks shows have been canceled throughout the Great Lakes Bay area. If residents choose to use their own fireworks at home, the City of Saginaw reminds residents to be safe and use good judgment when handling fireworks, including ground and handheld sparkling devices. Saginaw Fire Chief Chris Van Loo cautions residents, “Be safe and avoid fire-related injuries and fire-related destruction of property. Even sparklers should be used with caution as the average temperature may exceed 1,800 degrees. Have a backup plan with a charged water hose or bucket of water in case of emergency. Let's make this 4th of July a fun and safe holiday. Remember, alcohol and fireworks do not mix.”

Chief Van Loo also provided these additional tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable 4th of July:

- **Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.**
- **Never stand directly over fireworks when lighting.**

- **Never light fireworks indoors.**
- **Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.**
- **Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks**
- **Always stand several feet away from a lit firework.**
- **Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks.**
- **Always keep a bucket of water or garden hose handy in case of fire.**

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly 13,000 Americans are injured by fireworks annually with an average of eight deaths ranging in age from 4 to 57. Sparklers are one of the leading causes of injuries and can burn at 2,000 degrees — hot enough to melt glass. The City of Saginaw Fire Department encourages residents to consider giving children glow sticks instead of sparklers. Make sure to call 911 if a burn warrants medical attention.

Residents are reminded of the City's Pyrotechnics and Consumer Fireworks Ordinance which only allows for the use of consumer fireworks during the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. June 29 through Saturday, July 4. Residents are asked to comply with the City's ordinance and to be considerate of neighbors and safety while celebrating this 4th of July holiday.

For more information on fireworks guidelines in Michigan, download the flier provided by the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services at <https://bit.ly/2MsLfm2> or contact the Saginaw Fire Department at (989) 759-1393.

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