

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

July 1, 2011



PUT SAFETY IN PLAY DURING THE 4TH OF JULY

SUFFOLK, Virginia (July 1, 2011) Everyone enjoys fireworks, and it wouldn't be the 4th of July without them, however, the Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind residents to leave these to the professionals.

In fact, the use or sale of fireworks in the City of Suffolk is prohibited by City Code. The Code states, "It shall be a violation of this Code for any person to store, to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, or use or explode any fireworks. Fireworks include, but are not limited to, firecrackers, skyrockets, torpedoes, sparklers, or any other fireworks which explode, travel laterally, rise into the air, or fire projectiles into the air."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) notes that, on a typical Independence Day, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for more than half of those fires. In 2009, fireworks caused an estimated 18,000 reported fires, and emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,800 people for fireworks related injuries.

The City of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department and the NFPA encourage people to enjoy public displays of fireworks, as the safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to trained experts. Preparing for a day of family barbeques and holiday excitement is no fun if it includes a trip to the emergency room due to improper handling of fireworks.

The Suffolk Parks and Recreation Department will host this year's "Stars and Stripes Spectacular" on Monday, July 4th, at Constant's Wharf Park and Marina starting at 6 p.m. with live musical entertainment by Island Boy, concessions, and a children's area for kids 10 and under. Events will culminate with a fireworks display over the river at 9 p.m.

For more information on fire safety, please contact the Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office at 514-7540.

###