

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2010



Contact:

Diana L. Klink

757.514.4104

757.775.7144

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS REMINDER

SUFFOLK, Virginia (June 23, 2010) With the Fourth of July holiday weekend fast approaching, the City of Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind residents that 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 half of those fires. In 2005, fireworks caused an estimated 1,800 total structure fires and 700 vehicle fires reported to fire departments. These 2,500 fires resulted in an estimated 60 civilian injuries and \$39 million in direct property damage.

In 2006, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,200 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 professionals.

The Suffolk Parks and Recreation Department will host this year's "Stars and Stripes Spectacular" at Constant's Wharf Park and Marina starting at 5 p.m. with

live musical entertainment by Island Boy and concessions. Events will culminate with a fireworks display at 9 p.m.

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

###