

# SPRINGFIELD'S FIRE MARSHAL ENCOURAGES SAFETY WHEN USING LEGAL FIREWORKS

In an effort to reduce the number of fires and fireworks-related injuries, the City of Springfield's Fire Marshal is encouraging residents to attend public fireworks displays by licensed exhibitors this 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. The only types of fireworks that can be legally purchased and discharged in Ohio are trick and novelty devices. These include items that smoke, spark, snap and snake. For those who choose to have their own display using legal fireworks, should follow the following safety tips:

- \* Hand and discharge trick and novelty devices only under adult supervision.
- \* Appoint one adult to be in charge. This person should know the hazards of each type of firework being used.
- \* Carefully read and follow the label directions on the trick and novelty device packaging.
- \* Light only one sparkler at a time and hold it away from your body and others.
- \* Sparkler wires, which can burn up to 1800 degrees, should immediately be placed in a bucket of water to avoid injury, as they remain hot for a few minutes after burnout.
- \* If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for two to three minutes and seek medical attention when necessary.

Please keep in mind that there are penalties for failing to follow Ohio's fireworks laws. Most first time violations of fireworks laws are first-degree misdemeanors, punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine and six months in jail. Law enforcement authorities can also confiscate any illegal fireworks. Violations include falsifying the purchaser form, failing to complete the form, failing to transport fireworks out of state within the specified time period, and discharging 1.4G fireworks (commonly known as consumer fireworks – firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles and fountains). In addition to criminal prosecution, licensed fireworks manufacturers and wholesalers are subject to administrative enforcement actions for violations.

The Springfield Fire *Rescue* Division hopes that all Springfield residents have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.