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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Division of Fire Safety

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Paul J. Parisi
State Fire Marshal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Some Helpful Hints to Safely Enjoy Fireworks This Season

Concord – NH State Fire Marshal Paul J. Parisi would like to remind everyone that celebrating safely with fireworks involves the Three Be's; Be Prepared, Be Safe and Be Responsible. If you plan on using fireworks, please make sure you consider the following;

- ❖ Fireworks can only be purchased from a licensed retail store in NH.
- ❖ Fireworks stores know their products. Ask for information about a product if you are unsure how to light it or to determine what the effect will be.
- ❖ You must be 21 years of age to purchase and use fireworks in NH.
- ❖ Check with your town to see if a permit is required to use fireworks. The community restrictions list can be found at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/special-operations/fireworks/documents/fireworks-community-restrictions-list.pdf>
- ❖ Only light fireworks on a hard, flat and level surface and make sure the area is free from overhead obstructions (trees, electrical wires etc.).
- ❖ Never mix fireworks and alcohol and/or drug use.
- ❖ Wear eye and ear protection, gloves and clothing that cannot easily ignite.
- ❖ Do not attempt to re-light a firework that does not go off. Wait 15 minutes and then submerge it in a bucket of water overnight.
- ❖ You must be the property owner or have written permission from the property owner to light off fireworks.
- ❖ NEVER put any part of your body over a firework while attempting to light it and NEVER hold a firework in your hand while attempting to light it.
- ❖ Do not change or manipulate a firework in any way and be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions for use.

Don't become a statistic! According to the CPSC 2018 Fireworks Annual Report, 9,100 people were treated in US hospital emergency rooms for fireworks related injuries. There were also five deaths nationwide directly related to fireworks.

Visit our website at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/special-operations/fireworks/index.html> or call the NH State Fire Marshal's Office at (603) 223-4289 for more information.