

Press Release- Elwood Police

2019 Fourth of July Safety Reminder



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CONTACT: **Chief Fred Hayes, 815-423-5339, fred.hayes@villageofelwood.com**

Fireworks: Leave them to the Professionals Fireworks are one of the leading causes of accidental fires and injuries

Elwood, Illinois- A big part of summer is the 4th of July and fireworks. It is important to remember fireworks are dangerous and should only be used by someone who has a permit and has the proper training.

Fire Chief William Offerman says, "Please leave the fireworks to the professionals! We want all Elwood residents to have a safe and happy 4th of July free from fires or injuries caused by fireworks."

Fireworks are one of the leading causes of accidental fires and injuries. On average, there are over 16,000 fires caused by fireworks per year according to the National Fire Protection Association. These fires are not only caused by commercial/consumer fireworks, but also by unregulated novelty fireworks that are sometimes purchased at local super markets.

Sparklers account for one-quarter of emergency room visits related to fireworks. A sparkler can burn at a temperature of 1,200° degrees Fahrenheit. To put this into perspective, glass melts at a temperature of 900° degrees Fahrenheit and wood burns at a temperature of 575° degrees Fahrenheit. Never allow children to use fireworks!

In Illinois during the 2018 seasonal reporting period of June 23rd through July 20th, there were 96 people who reported 134 injuries due to fireworks. Of those 134 injuries, 72% were males and more than half (56%) occurred to persons over the age of 22. Children under the age of 6 accounted for nearly 1 in 10 (9.3%) of all injuries.

Hands accounted for more than a third (39%) of injuries. Head/Face and legs each accounted for 13% and 8% of injuries were reported to the eyes.

OSFM is aware of additional injuries but are not part of the statistics since they were reported outside of the reporting period, and they weren't reported to OSFM by a healthcare provider.

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