

Press Release- Elwood Police

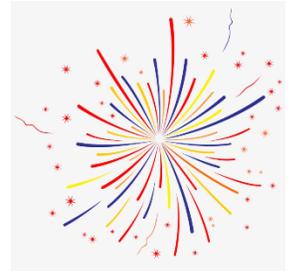
Fourth of July Safety Reminder



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **June 17, 2020**

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Leave Fireworks to the Experts



Elwood, Illinois – The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many municipalities to cancel their traditional July 4th Fireworks displays. If you look carefully you will find a few public displays in Will County. Due to the lack of public fireworks displays this year, along with importers stocked full with regulated explosives that have a lack of revenue coming in to pay for, it can be expected that more of the larger professional grade products will be dispersed illegally for private "backyard" displays. These products are extremely dangerous.

Most consumer fireworks are now legal in 46 states, while Illinois' strict prohibitions remain. Under the Pyrotechnic Use Act ("PUA") Illinois bans the sale, possession, and use of all "consumer fireworks." That's the stuff you can buy legally in some states, like firecrackers, bottle rockets, and roman candles. Violating the PUA is a class A misdemeanor and can result in up to 1 year in jail time and a \$2500 fine.

According to the National Safety Council in 2017, eight people died and over 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

Be aware that "persons" shooting large 1.3g professional grade fireworks need the following: ATF license, IDNR IL Individual Explosives License, IL OSFM lead shooters license, permit, certificate of insurance for the display, and an IL IDNR Storage Certificate if stored. Illegal Possession or Illegal Storage of these type of regulated 1.3g explosives is a Class 3 Felony per the Illinois Explosives Act.

Finally, during the July 4th Holiday please respect your neighbors, and remember unreasonable noise nuisance like loud music, loud parties, and fireworks are a violation of the Village of Elwood Noise Nuisance Prevention Ordinance. Fireworks and noise violations may be reported by calling the police departments non-emergency number (815) 423-5411. Avoid calling 911 unless you are reporting a fireworks related injury, fire, or property damage.

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