

Media Advisory – June 24, 2008

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Fire marshal encourages fireworks safety *Holiday can be fun and injury free if precautions taken*

As the Fourth of July holiday approaches, the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office urges all residents to use extreme caution when lighting fireworks.

In 2007, Snohomish County experienced more than \$400,000 in fire loss related to fireworks usage. Nationwide, more than 11,000 injuries each year are the result of fireworks. Most injuries occur because of mishandling or misuse of fireworks.

In Snohomish County and its municipalities, it is illegal to possess or discharge firecrackers, bottle rockets and skyrockets. These illegal explosive devices cause 90 percent of all fireworks-related fires in Washington.

Snohomish County code allows for legal fireworks to be discharged in unincorporated areas July 4 only, between 9 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. Cities within Snohomish County have varying requirements including bans on fireworks. Residents should contact their local fire department or city hall to determine whether fireworks are allowed and when.

Regardless of location, all fireworks users should follow these simple steps to ensure safety:

- **Have** a bucket of water ready for emergencies and to douse used fireworks;
- **Never** build or experiment with homemade fireworks;
- **Never** let children handle or light fireworks, including sparklers;
- **Never** ignite fireworks while holding them;
- **Make** sure you have enough space away from potential hazards, including buildings, vehicles and flammable materials;
- **Never** light fireworks inside a house or structure, including a garage;
- **Watch** what you wear as loose clothing can catch on fire and should not be worn while handling fireworks;
- **Never** try to re-ignite fireworks that have malfunctioned, instead soak them in water then throw them away;
- **Never** ignite fireworks when you are under the influence of alcohol, prescription drugs or illegal narcotics;
- **Never** aim fireworks at vehicles;
- **In case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.**

For more information on fireworks regulations in Snohomish County, go to www.snoco.org (keyword – fireworks) or call the Fire Marshal's Office at 425-388-3557.

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FIREWORKS SAFETY

Stay Safe and Legal this 4th of July!

Celebrate Legally:

- **Use fireworks only in legal locations.**

Arlington	July 4 between 9am – midnight
Bothell	July 4 between 9am – 11pm
Darrington	July 4 between 9am – 11:59pm
Edmonds	Banned
Everett	Banned
Gold Bar	Banned
Granite Falls	Banned
Index	July 4
Lake Stevens	State Law**
Lynnwood	July 4 between 9am – 11pm
Marysville	July 4 until 11pm
Mill Creek	Banned
Monroe	July 4 between 9am
Mountlake Terrace	Banned
Mukilteo	Banned
Snohomish County (unincorporated)	July 4 between 9am – 11:59pm
Stanwood	June 28 – July 5 between noon – 11pm
Sultan	July 4 between 9am – 11pm
Woodway	Banned

- **Use only fireworks sold at state licensed fireworks stands.**

- Illegal fireworks are subject to immediate confiscation and possible criminal charges.

- ****Use fireworks only during the legal times per state law:** (see above list for your area)

- June 28th between 12 noon and 11:00 p.m.
- June 29th through July 3rd between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- July 4th between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight
- July 5th between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Celebrate Safely:

- **Be Prepared... before you light fireworks**

- Use legal fireworks, available at licensed outlets
- Store fireworks out of children's reach
- Keep pets safe indoors
- Always keep water handy.

- **Be Safe... when lighting fireworks**

- Only adults should light fireworks.
- Use outdoors only.
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.
- Protect your eyes.
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly.
- Never relight a "dud".

- **Be Responsible... after you finish**

- Soak used fireworks in water.
- Be considerate – clean up used fireworks
- Keep matches and lighters away from children



Snohomish County Fire Marshal

www.snoco.org (keyword – fireworks)