

Media Advisory – June 26, 2009

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

Fire Marshal urges safety during July 4th festivities

To encourage a harm-free Fourth of July holiday, the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office is providing the following fire safety tips.

In 2007, the latest year federal statistics are available, more than nine out of 10 (92%) emergency room fireworks injuries involved fireworks that federal regulations permit consumers to use. The risk of fire death relative to exposure shows fireworks to be the riskiest consumer product. In 2007, Snohomish County experienced more than \$400,000 in fire loss due to fireworks devices.

Please follow these simple tips to help keep you safe:

- **Have** a bucket of water to douse used fireworks and for emergencies.
- **Never** build or experiment with homemade fireworks.
- **Never** let children handle or light fireworks. Even sparklers can be dangerous if unsupervised.
- **Never** ignite fireworks while holding them. Only light one at a time, and move away quickly.
- **Make** sure you give yourself enough room in a safe location – away from buildings, vehicles and flammable materials.
- **Never** light fireworks inside a structure.
- **Watch** what you wear. Loose clothing can catch on fire and should not be worn while handling fireworks.
- **Never** try to re-ignite fireworks that have malfunctioned. Soak them in water then throw away.
- **Never** ignite fireworks when you are under the influence of alcohol, prescription drugs or mind-altering drugs.
- **Never** aim fireworks at vehicles.
- **In case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.**

Unincorporated Snohomish County allows the discharge of fireworks on the Fourth of July only, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 11:59 p.m.. Other jurisdictions have different rules regarding the discharge of fireworks.

For more information on this topic or other fire safety issues, call 425-388-3557 or go to www.snoco.org and search for "Fire_Marshal."

###