



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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COMMISSIONER KING: STAY SAFE WHEN CELEBRATING WITH FIREWORKS THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY

ATLANTA – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King encourages all Georgians to stay safe when celebrating with fireworks this 4th of July.

“Independence Day is a time to celebrate the founding of our nation with friends and family,” said Commissioner King. “Although celebrating with fireworks is a fun and time-honored tradition, it is important to remain cautious and follow certain safety tips to prevent accidental fires and severe injuries this holiday.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), [half](#) of all fires reported on the 4th of July result from fireworks. Firework-related fires can result in significant injury, death, and millions in direct property damage. An estimated [15,600 firework-related injuries](#) occurred in 2020, with two-thirds of those in the four-week period around the 4th of July. More than 2,000 emergency department-treated injuries were the result of small fireworks, such as sparklers and firecrackers.

When using fireworks this 4th of July, please practice the following safety tips:

- Always read the labels and follow the directions for each specific type of firework
- Light fireworks outdoors and maintain a safe distance away from other people and fire hazards
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Do not give fireworks to small children
- Avoid using illegal or homemade fireworks
- Have a garden hose or bucket of water nearby
- Submerge used and unused fireworks in water prior to discarding
- If injuries and damages do occur, call 911
- If you do not feel safe lighting your own fireworks, feel free to attend a public fireworks display

For more information on fireworks safety, [visit our website](#). For more on laws governing the use of fireworks in Georgia, please contact your local police or fire department.

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