

## **DECEMBER: Week 4 – New Year’s Celebration Safety: Fireworks**

**Overview:** Celebrating New Year with fireworks has been a longstanding tradition in the United States. However, many people are seriously injured each year by their careless use. The SFMO encourages Tennesseans to have a fire-safe New Year by leaving the fireworks to the professionals. To avoid the risk of injury and property damage associated with consumer fireworks, join other community members in attending a public display put on by trained and licensed professionals.



**Resources:** *The following resources are available:*

- “Consumer Fireworks Safety Public Service Announcement” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcFuIEwbITA>
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Public Assembly Safety” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Im7GRgE4wc>
- Safety in places of public assembly tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/publicsafetyoccupanciessafetytips.pdf?la=en>

**Media Tools:** *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote New Year’s Celebration safety:*

- **Twitter**
  - Celebrate safely! If you use fireworks, be sure to follow these important safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2vkNDWE>
  - Leave leftover fireworks on the ground after a #fireworks display. They may still be active! <http://bit.ly/2vkNDWE>
- **Facebook**
  - This NFPA public service announcement, "Safe? Sane?" urges people not to use consumer fireworks because they are too dangerous. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAEzVPSp3Q>
  - Patrick and Marci Foy, and their daughter, Olivia, were injured while attending a family celebration, and were among more than a dozen people hurt. Hear them tell their story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIAB-NuZYfl>
  - Consumer fireworks include sparklers and firecrackers. Did you know that the tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause 3rd degree burns? [www.nfpa.org/fireworks](http://www.nfpa.org/fireworks)

**Educator Tip:** Offer to organize an official fireworks watch party, one where the display of fireworks is arranged and performed by a professional pyrotechnic company. These can be very successful in bringing together the community for an evening of celebratory fireworks while also keeping everyone safe.

**NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

If consumer fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks – this includes sparklers.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Wear eye protection.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never throw or point fireworks at people or animals.
- Only light fireworks outdoors on a smooth, flat surface away from homes, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water and a garden hose nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.