

June 22, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Reminder: Fireworks Illegal Within City Limits**

During a typical Independence Day holiday each year, more fires are reported than on any other day in the United States. Fireworks account for half of those fires.

In 2009, fireworks caused:

- 1,300 structure fires
- 400 vehicle fires
- \$38 million in property damage

In 2009, an estimated 8,800 people were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks injuries nationwide. More than 50 percent of those injuries were to the extremities, and 42 percent were to the head. The risk of fireworks injury was highest for children ages 10 to 14 — more than twice the risk for the general population.

The Springfield Fire Department would like to remind citizens that it is illegal under the adopted Fire Code to possess, manufacture, store, sell, handle, or discharge fireworks within the City limits. The only exceptions are novelty items described as snappers, party poppers, and some types of sparklers.

Individuals found in possession of and/or discharging fireworks will have their fireworks confiscated and a ticket may be issued.

For more information, contact: Randy Villines, Assistant Fire Chief, (417) 864-1527.



### **Springfield Fire Department**

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