



Monroe Fire District #3

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www.monroefire.org



Safe Kids Snohomish County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Join Monroe Fire District #3 and Safe Kids Snohomish County in Celebrating Safely This Fourth of July

Fireworks Injure 2,600 Kids Each Summer!

Monroe, WA – The Fourth of July is a time for celebration across the country, and in Monroe - fireworks are a crowd favorite each year. Whether at a professional show or in the backyard, fireworks can be fun to watch – but they can also be very dangerous.

In 2007, an estimated 2,600 children ages 14 and under were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for injuries involving fireworks during the fireworks season, which runs from the middle of June until the middle of July. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 40 percent of the people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.

“Don’t ever let kids play with fireworks, period,” says Shawneri Guzman, Safe Kids Snohomish County coordinator. “They’re intended for use by adults in open spaces and children should watch from a safe distance with plenty of adult supervision to make sure they don’t get too close.”

As with any activity involving hazardous equipment, keep all children under active supervision at all times and give them your undivided attention. "The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch them at a community event where professionals handle them," says Guzman.

MFD #3 and Safe Kids Snohomish County recommend these precautions for adults using fireworks:

- Light fireworks only on smooth, flat surfaces, and aim them away from spectators, buildings, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Do not try to relight fireworks that malfunction.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or hold them close to your face.
- Visit www.recalls.gov to make sure the pyrotechnic devices you are using are not subject to any safety recalls.
- Do not modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.
- Keep a phone handy, and know first aid for burns. Also, keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.

Fireworks, including sparklers, can cause serious burns as well as blast injuries that can permanently impair vision and hearing. "Teach your children how to call 911 in an emergency. Also teach them what to do if their clothing catches on fire - 'stop, drop and roll,'" adds Richelle Risdon, Public Education & Information Officer for Monroe Fire District #3.

Where permitted by law, fireworks should be handled and used in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and all warning labels. Purchase only legal fireworks! Illegal fireworks are must be considered illegal explosive devices and must be treated as such. Call 911 if any of these explosive devices are found. DO NOT handle explosive devices.

It is ILLEGAL to possess or discharge firecrackers, bottle rockets and skyrockets in Washington State. These ILLEGAL explosive devices cause 90% of all fireworks-related fires in the State of Washington. ILLEGAL explosive devices are often wrongly referred to as fireworks.

Legal fireworks are limited to Consumer "Class C". This includes all fireworks purchased from retail stands in the City of Monroe.

Most fireworks purchased at tribal stands are illegal off of the reservation.

Fireworks may be discharged in Unincorporated Snohomish County and the City of Monroe between 9:00 am and 12:00 MIDNIGHT on the 4th of July ONLY.

Complaints of fireworks discharge should be reported to 911.

Be Accountable. Be Responsible. Be Safe. Be a Good Neighbor.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FIREWORKS INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO MONROE.

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