

While Celebrating 'Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness' Let's Also Pursue Fireworks Safety on the 4th of July

PR Newswire

As the United States prepares to celebrate its independence on July 4th, Farmers Insurance®, the nation's third-largest insurer of homes in the country, reminds residents of the need to celebrate in a safe manner.

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"Every year, there are far too many injuries to children, pets and adults caused by the unsafe use of fireworks," said Jeff Reinig, Senior Vice President of Property Insurance for Farmers. "While we wish everyone a joyous Fourth of July filled with lots of family, friends and fun we also want everyone to be safe. Thus, in honor of the original 13 colonies, we offer the following 13 tips for Fourth of July safety."

1. Be sure your City or community allows fireworks. Many municipalities, especially in or near fire-prone areas, do not allow the use of fireworks. In this circumstance, there are often neighboring communities that permit their use.
2. Always be sure to read and follow the directions on safe use of fireworks. Often, fireworks makers, introduce new products or alter older products so it's important to keep up to date on their use.
3. Remember that fireworks are not toys. They can cause, and have caused, significant injuries and property damage when used in an unsafe manner.
4. Always have an adult present. Children/Minors should not be left alone to light fireworks on their own.
5. Only use fireworks outdoors. Even in inclement weather, fireworks should never be used indoors.
6. Never use fireworks near flammable materials, including dry vegetation or other combustibles.
7. Make sure everyone keeps a safe distance from the lit fireworks. Many fireworks can spray lighted materials a great distance, increasing the potential for accidental burning.
8. Only ignite one firework at a time.
9. Never point or throw fireworks (lit or unlit) at another person.
10. Have a bucket and working water hose nearby.
11. Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
12. Only use "Approved" fireworks. If you're not sure if your fireworks are approved, check with your local fire department as different jurisdictions may have regional differences.
13. Remember barbeque safety as well. Millions of people are expected to enjoy a Fourth of July BBQ and it's important that "grill safety" also be observed.

"We, too, love the beauty and thrill of watching a great fireworks show. We just want to be sure that everyone celebrates in a safety conscious manner," Reinig added.

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