



Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS URGE CAUTION WITH FIREWORKS

Atlanta – As New Year’s Eve approaches, the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s office is urging residents to use extreme caution to avoid fires and severe injuries when using fireworks this holiday.

“The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public fireworks display,” Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said. “Each year in the U.S., around 8,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries.”

In 2015, the sale and use of most consumer types of fireworks, which include firecrackers, skyrocketers, and Roman candles, became legal to use in Georgia. Last year 158 fireworks-related incidents were reported across the state. Those incidents include grass, brush, woodland, vehicle, and mobile home fires.

Commissioner Hudgens offers the following fireworks safety suggestions:

- Purchase fireworks from a licensed fireworks dealer.
- Observe all state laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Read the labels carefully before igniting any fireworks.
- Ensure that an adult supervises all firework activities.
- Never allow children to ignite fireworks.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Only use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- Never try to relight a firework.
- Have a garden hose or bucket of water nearby.
- Use caution with animals. Excitement, noise, and lights can cause fear and stress.

For more on laws governing the use of fireworks in Georgia, please contact your local police or fire department. To find a licensed fireworks dealer in your area, please visit our [Fireworks Page](#).