



NEWS RELEASE

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Hudgens: Exercise Caution When Using Fireworks This Holiday Season

Atlanta- Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens is urging Georgians to exercise caution when using fireworks this holiday season.

Consumer fireworks such as firecrackers and skyrockets became legal as of July 1, 2015. While most firework-related injuries occur around the Fourth of July holiday, many injuries are also reported on New Years' Eve.

"This time of year is meant for enjoying the holidays with family and friends," Hudgens said. "Don't let a firework-related injury stop that."

Commissioner Hudgens offers the following fireworks safety tips:

- Always read and follow label directions
- Purchase fireworks from licensed vendors only
- Only use fireworks outdoors
- Only light one firework at a time
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Fireworks should only be used with close adult supervision
- Be sure to have water handy
- Remember to call your local 911 for emergencies

In addition to the above tips, keep in mind that firework use is only allowed between 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 Midnight. For New Years' Eve, the time is extended to 2:00 A.M.

If you have any questions, please call the Georgia Department of Insurance at (404) 656-2070 or toll free at (800) 656-2298. Additionally, be sure to check out our fireworks safety tips on our website:

<https://www.oci.ga.gov/ConsumerService/SafetyTips-Fireworks.aspx>