



State of Georgia
Department of Insurance

*2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
720 West Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
800-656-2298
Website: www.oci.ga.gov*

Ralph Hudgens
Commissioner of Insurance
Safety Fire Commissioner
Industrial Loan Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact: Glenn Allen
Office: 404-463-0729**

FIRE COMMISSIONER URGE CAUTION WITH FIREWORKS

Atlanta, GA – As the July Fourth holiday approaches, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens is urging residents to use extreme caution to avoid fires and severe injuries when using fireworks this Independence Day.

“The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public fireworks display,” Commissioner Hudgens said. “Each year in the U.S., around 11,000 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. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there are about 200 fireworks injuries a day during the month surrounding the Fourth of July holiday.

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, call us at 800-656-2298.