

NEWS RELEASE

MASON COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL 427-9670 ext. 273
CITY OF SHELTON FIRE MARSHAL 432-5170

The City of Shelton and the Mason County Fire Marshal call for care in using fireworks.

With state-licensed fireworks retail stands opening June 28th at 12:00 noon and closing July 5th at 12:00 noon, the Shelton Fire Marshal and the Mason County Fire Marshal are asking citizens to “Celebrate Safely”.

State Law allows consumer fireworks to be discharged between the hours of 12:00 noon to 11:00 PM on June 28th, 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM June 29th to July 3rd, 9:00 AM to 12:00 midnight on July 4th, and 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM on July 5th. These dates and times apply to fireworks discharge in unincorporated Mason County.

However, as a result of two significant wildfires within the city limits in 2003, the Shelton City Commission voted to restrict the discharge of fireworks within the Shelton city limits to one day, the 4th of July only, from 9 am to midnight. Extensive publicity efforts are underway to advise the public of the city ordinance.

Both Fire Marshals agree that the key to a safe 4th of July is common sense.

First, set family boundaries. Only adults should light fireworks. Last year, over 1300 fireworks incidents were reported to the State Fire Marshal, with 28 percent of these incidents having no adult supervision. In addition, 244 injuries were reported, of which 51 were children under the age of 14. Supervision is paramount in keeping children safe.

Second, fireworks should not be readily available to tempt the curiosity of young children, and should be stored in a secured location to prohibit their access.

Third, check with your local fire department for additional restrictions in your area. Most importantly talk about safety. Summer weather conditions make grasses and other vegetation dry and vulnerable to fire. Use care in selecting the area where you will be discharging fireworks.

Finally, a number of illegal fireworks are purchased during the 4th of July holiday. Under State law firecrackers, sky rockets, bottle rockets are illegal to possess and discharge. Possession of State illegal fireworks will result in loss of the fireworks, and a possible citation.

Fireworks can also be enjoyed at a community fireworks display. Your city and county Fire Marshals strongly urge you to attend a public display near you.

The city and county Fire Marshals ask citizens to follow these precautions when using fireworks:

- **Before you light fireworks – “Be Prepared!” Purchase only legal fireworks, available at approved stands. Talk with family members and guests about the laws for your area. Place pets indoors as they may become frightened. Keep a bucket of water nearby in which to place all used fireworks. Have a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby to put out stray sparks. Clear a level area away from things that can burn. Know the emergency number to call for your area, your address/location, and basic first aid. Teach your children to “stop, drop, and roll” if their clothes catch on fire.**
- **When lighting fireworks – “Be Safe!” Have a designated adult light all fireworks. Do not allow young children to light fireworks. Use eye protection, wear safety goggles. Light one at a time, move away quickly, and keep at a safe distance until the display is finished. Use only outdoors, away from anything that can burn. To prevent injuries, never throw fireworks and never hold fireworks in your hand.**

CELEBRATE SAFELY

#