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News Release

For Immediate Release

Fire Department Urges Safety First on July Fourth

In a typical year, more U.S. fires are reported on Independence Day than on any other day, and fireworks account for half of those fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2010, fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires, including 1,100 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 14,100 outside and other fires.

In addition to fires, fireworks can also cause injuries including serious burn and eye injuries. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2010, fireworks were the cause of 8,600 visits to emergency rooms across the nation. Injuries to children under the age of 15 accounted for about 40% of those injuries.

With that in mind, the Springfield Fire Department is asking all residents to follow these tips this 4th of July:

- Remember, it is illegal to possess, manufacture, store, sell, handle or discharge fireworks within the city limits.
- While sparklers are legal, remember that even they can be dangerous. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals. In 2010, there were an estimated 1,200 injuries associated with sparklers, according to CPSC.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Supervise children properly. Never allow them to play with or ignite fireworks. Educate them about the dangers of fireworks.

Over the holiday period, the Springfield Fire and Police Departments will enforce the City's fireworks ordinance. All fireworks will be confiscated and tickets may be issued.

For more information, contact: Fire and Life Safety Educator Cara Restelli Erwin, (417) 839-3172.