

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Liz Brocker  
(701) 328-2213

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### STATE FIRE MARSHAL URGES CAUTION WHEN USING FIREWORKS

BISMARCK, ND – The sale of fireworks in North Dakota starts today and continues through July 5, said State Fire Marshal Jeffrey Huber. The State Fire Marshal, a division of the Office of Attorney General, regulates the sale and use of explosives, including fireworks. State law sets limits on the types of fireworks that can be sold to the general public.

Huber urged residents to use caution when handling fireworks, especially if children are nearby. “Sparklers are very popular, but they can heat up to 1200 degrees, hot enough to melt glass, and should only be used with the proper safety precautions and supervision,” said Huber.

Huber offered the following safety tips:

- Point fireworks away from buildings, brush, leaves, or flammable substances
- Closely supervise children at all times
- Do not wear loose clothing
- Do not light fireworks indoors or near dry grass
- Never stand over any type of fireworks
- Place fireworks in water prior to discarding
- Keep fire extinguisher or bucket of water nearby.

Communities across North Dakota host firework displays to celebrate America’s independence. The state’s annual Fourth of July fireworks event is held on the capitol grounds. This year’s event begins at 9:00 pm and is accompanied by live music from the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra. Check the newspaper or contact local government officials for information about fireworks displays in your area.

“The safest way to enjoy the Fourth of July fireworks is to attend a professional display,” said Huber.

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