



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oshkosh Police Department

Date: June 28, 2012
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Contact: Officer Joseph Nichols
(920) 236-5742

Subject: Fireworks Safe Handling/Fire Danger

MEDIA RELEASE

The Oshkosh Police Department and Oshkosh Fire Department are reminding citizens to be careful when handling fireworks that are legal to have in the City of Oshkosh and are also reminding citizens that some fireworks are illegal in the city limits of Oshkosh and the person in possession of or using those fireworks are subject to a \$217.50 fine.

Those fireworks that are **illegal** are those that leave the ground or explode. This includes: Firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, wheels, aerial salutes, among other types of fireworks that leave the ground and/or explode.

Those fireworks that are **legal** include: sparklers not exceeding 36" in length and not containing magnesium, chlorate or perchlorate; snakes not containing mercury; and cylinder and/or cone fountains.

The Oshkosh Police Department will have a "No Tolerance" strict enforcement on the possession and usage of the fireworks ordinance and those in violation will receive a citation.

The Oshkosh Fire Department is alerting citizens that they need to use extra caution when utilizing fireworks in these dry conditions. With the dry weather conditions, sparks from fireworks may ignite dried vegetation, which may erupt and spread quickly with winds into populated areas and buildings. Fireworks have the potential of generating temperatures of over 2000 degrees Fahrenheit which will burn skin, clothing and other flammable items, including homes. If in doubt, snuff the fireworks out.

Each year, thousands of people in the United States experience traumatic injuries when using or being around fireworks. In 2011, four deaths were reported in the U. S. caused by illegal firework devices. In these incidents, the illegal fireworks caused lethal head and facial trauma and one person was decapitated.

The majority of calls taken by the Oshkosh Police Department during the 4th of July are noise complaints caused by illegal fireworks. Be mindful that your neighbors may be sleeping and have to work early in the morning. Respectful neighbors make a happy neighborhood. Don't utilize illegal fireworks in your neighborhood.

July 4th is a time to be Patriotic and celebrate this great nation's birthday. The Oshkosh Police Department and Oshkosh Fire Department wishes you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

If you are in doubt whether the fireworks are legal or illegal, please contact the Oshkosh Police Department or Oshkosh Fire Department for more information.

If you have questions about this media release, please contact Joe or John at the numbers below. Thank you.

Joseph Nichols
Crime Prevention Officer
Oshkosh Police Department
Office: (920) 236-5742
Cell: (920) 379-3572
Fax: (920) 236-5743

John Holland
Fire Public Education Specialist
Oshkosh Fire Department
Office: (920) 236-5249
Cell: (920) 379-3525

####