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LEAVE THE FIREWORKS TO THE PROFESSIONALS

Emergency Room visits continue to rise

Sycamore, IL. June 20, 2016- Fireworks are synonymous with the celebration of Independence Day. Many gather around to watch the display of flashing lights and loud, earth-shaking explosions. While there is potential danger in any fireworks display, all public displays in DeKalb County must go through a process of safety checks that are important to ensure the safety of life and property. A handful of permits must be obtained, safety inspections must be performed and a professional pyro technician must perform the displays. While it may be more convenient to have a friend or family member perform a fireworks display in the back yard, it is important to know that is highly hazardous and illegal.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2014, fireworks were involved in an estimated 10,500 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments. Fireworks also accounted for 11 deaths ranging from firework-ignited structure fires to direct injury.

It is important to check your local ordinance regarding fireworks. In most cases, it is unlawful to possess and discharge any firework within the limits of any city, town, or village within DeKalb County. Some of the illegal fireworks are: firecrackers, torpedoes, sky rockets, Roman candles, bombs, blank cartridges, toy cannons in which explosives are used, and balloons that require fire underneath to propel the balloon; or, other fireworks containing any explosive compounds.

If you are traveling to an area where fireworks are acceptable to ignite, please remember:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Always have an adult supervise all fireworks activities.
- Never place any of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting the fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep water nearby in case of fire or mishap.
- Remember, it is illegal to bring fireworks back to the Sycamore area.

For more information on fireworks safety, please contact the Sycamore Fire Department at (815) 895-4514, email us at fire.prevention@cityofsycamore.com or visit us on Facebook at City of Sycamore Fire Department for occasional postings.