



# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE

a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

## Office of State Fire Marshal

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SC STATE FIRE MARSHAL URGES SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO PRIORITIZE FIREWORKS SAFETY

As South Carolinians prepare to celebrate Independence Day, SC State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones is reminding residents to make fireworks safety a priority and help prevent injuries, fires, and avoidable tragedies.

“Most fire fatalities continue to occur in homes, and many fires begin with preventable actions,” said SC State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones. “Fireworks can be an enjoyable part of celebrating the Fourth of July, but they must be used responsibly. A few simple safety precautions can protect your family, your home, and your community.”

Reducing preventable fires and protecting lives is a major focus of SC State Fire and aligns the division’s prevention and community risk reduction efforts with its mission: to be the focal point for service and support to save lives and property. Whether using consumer fireworks at home or attending a professional display, residents are encouraged to follow these important safety guidelines:

- Observe local laws. If unsure whether fireworks are legal in your jurisdiction, check with local officials.
- Observe local weather conditions. Dry weather can increase the risk of wildfire and structure fires.
- Buy fireworks only from permitted fireworks retailers.
- Always have an adult present when using fireworks.
- Read and follow all manufacturer instructions carefully.
- Only use fireworks outdoors and away from homes, vehicles, dry grass, and trees.
- Ensure people and pets are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Keep a garden hose and a bucket of water nearby. Place used fireworks in water before disposal.

South Carolina law prohibits fireworks from being sold to anyone younger than 16 years old.

SC State Fire officials also encourage residents to attend professional fireworks displays whenever possible. “There is no safer way to enjoy fireworks than by attending a permitted public display conducted by trained professionals,” Jones said. “Professional displays allow families to celebrate safely while reducing the risk of injury and fire in neighborhoods across our state.”

[Click here for more information from Fire Safe SC on fireworks safety.](#)



*Our mission is to be the focal point for service and support to save lives and property.*