



**June 26, 2013
NEWS RELEASE**

Fireworks Safety Tips

The Santa Maria Fire Department wants to ensure a safe Fourth of July holiday period for all residents in our community. Please keep in mind that Safe and Sane fireworks may only be purchased at the 21 designated fireworks stands that are permitted within the City of Santa Maria. Sales begin at noon Friday, June 28th and end at noon Friday, July 5th, and fireworks can only be used during that time. It must also be noted that the sales and use of Safe and Sane fireworks purchased in the City are only legal within the Santa Maria City limits. Fireworks of any type are banned throughout most of Santa Barbara County. The possession, sales, or use of fireworks of any type outside of the City of Santa Maria is considered a misdemeanor offense, and in some cases, a felony offense.

To help you celebrate safely this Fourth of July, the Santa Maria Fire Department offers the following safety tips when dealing with Safe and Sane fireworks:

- Always read and follow label directions.
- Have an adult present.
- Buy only from stands that have been permitted by the City of Santa Maria.
- Use outdoors only.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).
- Never experiment with or make your own fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Stay away from illegal explosives.

[more](#)



Tips on Choosing Safe Fireworks

It is extremely important to know the difference between a legal consumer firework and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters are not fireworks, they are Federally banned explosives. They can cause serious injury or even death. Stay away from anything that is not clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturer's name and instructions for proper use.

Here are some more tips to help ensure a safe Fourth of July:

- Fireworks are not toys. Fireworks burn at approximately the same temperature as a household match and can cause burn injuries and ignite clothing if used improperly.
- NEVER give fireworks to young children. Close, adult supervision of all fireworks activities is mandatory. Even sparklers can be unsafe if used improperly.
- Stay away from illegal explosives. Illegal explosive devices continue to cause serious injuries around the Fourth of July holiday. These devices are commonly known as M-80s, M-100s, blockbusters or quarter-pounders. These items will not contain the manufacturer's name and are usually totally unlabeled. Do not purchase or use unlabeled fireworks. If you are aware of anyone selling such devices, contact your fire or police department.
- Homemade fireworks are deadly. Never attempt to make your own devices and do not purchase or use any kits that are advertised for making fireworks. Mixing and loading chemical powders is very dangerous and can kill or cause serious injury to you. Leave the making of fireworks to the experts.

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS SALES, POSSESSION, AND USE

- Fireworks that are not purchased at a permitted fireworks stand are **ILLEGAL!**
- The City of Santa Maria has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on sales, use, and possession of illegal fireworks.
- If you are caught with illegal fireworks:
 - You will receive an Administrative Citation which carries a fine of \$1,000.
 - You will receive a Criminal Citation which carries a fine of up to \$1,000, one year in jail, and probation.
 - You will be required to reimburse the City for the costs related to investigating and processing your criminal citation, which could be up to \$1,000.
 - You could be convicted of a FELONY and go to STATE PRISON if you have more than one pound of illegal fireworks.
- All illegal fireworks will be taken and destroyed.
- The City of Santa Maria has a fireworks Hotline you can call to report illegal fireworks sales, possession, and use. Call (805) 925-0951 extension FIRE (3473). You do NOT have to give your name. You can remain anonymous.



SANTA MARIA

News

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