

## Carol Coles

---

**From:** Carol Coles  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 10:35 AM  
**To:** \*everyone; \_Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily; OU Nightly  
**Subject:** Fireworks Safety

City of Norman  
201 West Gray  
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Carol Coles  
City Of Norman  
366-5404  
[carol.coles@normanok.gov](mailto:carol.coles@normanok.gov)

Fireworks during the Fourth of July are as American as apple-pie, but did you know that more than twice the numbers of fires are reported on that day than on any other day of the year in the United States? Two out of five of these fires are caused by fireworks.

Permanent scarring, loss of vision, dismemberment – these are too often the harsh realities of amateur fireworks use. To keep the public safe from fireworks-related injuries and deaths, the Norman Fire Prevention Office urges everyone to treat fireworks as suitable only for use by trained professionals. According to NFPA, amateur fireworks use endangers not only the users, but also bystanders and surrounding property and structures. Pyrotechnic devices ranging from sparklers to aerial rockets cause thousands of fires and serious injuries each year.

In recent years, fireworks have been one of the leading causes of injuries serious enough to require hospital emergency room treatment. Fireworks can result in severe burns, fractures, or scars or even death or disfigurement that can last a lifetime. The thousands of serious injuries each year typically harm the eyes, head, or hands, and are mostly reported in states where

Wooded areas, homes, and even automobiles have become engulfed in flames because of fireworks. Fireworks-related fires have typically caused at least \$20 million in property loss (not adjusted for inflation) each year in recent years. A substantial portion of the structure fire property loss due to fireworks typically involves bottle rockets or other fireworks rockets. These rockets can land on rooftops or wedge within certain structures and still retain enough heat to cause a fire.

Public fireworks displays are one of those alternatives. Conducted by trained professionals, these displays are the smartest and safest fireworks alternative for anyone because they are established under controlled settings and regulations. After these displays, or any other time, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over. Fireworks that have been ignited and fail to immediately explode or

discharge can cause injury because they may still be active. Children should always tell an adult if they find fireworks rather than picking up smoking or charred fireworks themselves, which is just too risky.

The City of Norman's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> activities will begin at Reaves Park located at 2501 Jenkins at 4:00 p.m. with a professional fireworks display occurring at approximately 9:45 that evening.

The good news is you can enjoy your holiday and the fireworks, with just a few simple safety tips:

- ❖ Leave fireworks to the professionals. Do not use consumer fireworks.
- ❖ The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.
- ❖ After the firework display, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over, they may still be active.

###