

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)

## **LEAVE FIREWORKS TO THE PROFESSIONALS**

Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks - devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death. The Alliance to Stop Consumer Fireworks is a group of health and safety organizations, coordinated by National Fire Protection Association, that urges the public to **avoid the use of consumer fireworks** and instead, to enjoy displays of fireworks conducted by trained professionals.

- In 2005, fireworks caused an estimated 1,800 total structure fires and 700 vehicle fires reported to fire departments. These 2,500 fires resulted in an estimated 60 civilian injuries and \$39 million in direct property damage. There were no reported civilian deaths.
- In 2006, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,200 people for fireworks related injuries. 49% of the injuries were to the extremities and 46% were to the head. 55% of the 2006 fireworks injuries were burns, while 30% were contusions and lacerations.
- The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population.
- In 2001-2005, an estimated 1 person per year was killed in reported fires started by fireworks, while 6 people per year were killed directly by fireworks.

- On Independence Day in a typical year, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for half of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

Selling or purchasing fireworks within the City limits of Norman is illegal. Discharging fireworks within the City of Norman is illegal without having first received a special permit issued by the Norman Fire Department. This Special permit is restricted for use by professional pyrotechnicians only.

The City of Norman wants everyone to have a safe and happy Fourth of July and leave the fireworks to the professionals. Everyone is invited to join the community celebration which features a colorful, professional fireworks display. The show begins at 9:45 p.m. at Reaves Park located at Jenkins Street and Constitution in Norman. Rain date will be Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 p.m.