

MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIREWORKS SAFETY



Safety should be a primary concern for your Independence Day celebrations, particularly if they include fireworks. If you're going to be in charge of fireworks at home this year, it is important to plan ahead. Your planning and your reactions could help prevent and injury. The following is a list of "dos" and "don'ts" that will help ensure you have a safe holiday.

- **DO** purchase your fireworks from a reliable seller.
- **DO** have an adult present to supervise all fireworks activity.
- **DO** inspect fireworks carefully before using.
- **DO** have a fire extinguisher or water nearby when setting off fireworks.
- **DO** ignite fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from building, vehicles and shrubbery.
- **DO** shoot fireworks off of a hard paved surface in a wide open area.
- **DO** keep spectators 25' to 100' away from the firing site.
- **DO** light fireworks one at a time, wear eye protection, without your body over the fireworks.
- **DO** step out of the way quickly after lighting fireworks.
- **DO** store unused fireworks in a cool dry place.
- **DO** dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in a bucket of water immediately after use, and before disposing in the trash.
- **DON'T** give fireworks to small children.
- **DON'T** point or throw fireworks at another person.
- **DON'T** hold lit fireworks in your hand.
- **DON'T** carry fireworks in your pocket.
- **DON'T** set off fireworks in a large crowd of people.
- **DON'T** use fireworks by dry grass or flammable materials.
- **DON'T** experiment with homemade fireworks or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- **DON'T** shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- **DON'T** attempt to relight malfunctioning fireworks.
- **DON'T** attempt to fix fireworks that have not gone off or have misfired.
- **DON'T** use fireworks that appear to have gotten wet then dried, have loose fuses or appear old or show any other signs of mishandling.

This fire was a result of fireworks that were not disposed of properly.

