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Safety Spotlight Newsletter

Fire Marshal's Message:

Summertime is here with warmer weather, grilling, family vacations and celebrations that may include consumer fireworks this year in West Virginia. Consumer fireworks become legal to purchase on June 1, 2016 and include bottle rockets, roman candles, firecrackers, etc. Everyone here at the WV Fire Marshal's Office has been working diligently these last few weeks in preparation to license retailers, inspect firework occupancies and promote fireworks safety. I urge each of you to provide firework safety education to your communities as part of our statewide public education network. Fireworks; if not handled properly, can cause burn injuries to children and adults. Even novelty hand "Sparklers"; that have been legal in WV since 2006, burn as hot as 2000° Fahrenheit and are more than sufficient to cause severe skin burns or ignite clothing. Adults must ensure children who handle sparklers are properly warned and supervised. Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed by everyone, but you'll enjoy them more knowing you've made a contribution to your community's safety. Join us and let's prevent as many of these injuries as possible as we all celebrate the Fourth of July and other summer time events.

Sincerely,
Bob Sharp,
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal



Upcoming Events

June 4-9th
Junior Firefighter Camp

August 10-13th
88th Annual WV State Firemen's
Assoc. Convention

August 18-19th
WV Fire Commission Meeting
Snowshoe Mountain

Important Announcements

Consumer Fireworks are now legal. For a full look at HB2852 head here: <http://www.firemarshal.wv.gov/Documents/LICENSE%20APPLICATIONS/HB2852%20SUB%20ENR.pdf>

Public Education Network



The importance of preventative fire safety messages can be seen state wide as we expand our Public Education Network to now 75 members and growing. We appreciate your dedication to the fire service and hope some of the resources provided in this newsletter help you spread awareness in your communities.

We are busy creating new and useful resources not only in this newsletter but also on our website. Along with adding applications and permits for the now legal consumer fireworks you'll find a consumer fireworks safety section.

Our push to get smoke alarms in homes has been a high priority as we work with agencies like the American Red Cross and businesses sponsoring the purchase of smoke alarms. This message goes hand in hand with our focus for Fire Prevention Week this year.

We will be taking the same approach as the NFPA, "Don't Wait – Check the Date!"...Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years. It's the third year in a row the focus has been on smoke alarms and our office will continue to make that message very clear.



Fire Prevention Resources

See how your department can Skype with Molly The Safety Dog.

The Keep Kids Fire Safe Foundation is a federally recognized non-profit that teaches fire safety knowledge and skills to children and their caregivers based on fire safety research.

Firefighter Dayna uses Dalmatians as fire safety dogs.

You can request a Skype session with one of the dogs or suggest it to a school.

<http://www.firesafetydogs.com/>

Molly the Safety Dog is also on Facebook.

Recent Training and Qualifying



Twice a year Assistant State Fire Marshal's are required to qualify for day and night proficiency of their weapons.

In May, training at the West Virginia Public Safety Expo covered Community Risk Reduction as well as the "Remembering When" program by a representative from the NFPA.

Thank you to those from our network who were in attendance.

Legalization of Consumer Fireworks

The use of consumer fireworks becomes legal to purchase and sell in the state of West Virginia as of June 1st and the Office of the State Fire Marshal is reminding residents to be safe and follow the law while enjoying fireworks.

West Virginian's can already purchase hand-held and ground-based sparkling devices, such as sparklers, novelties, toy caps and model rockets. These have been legal in West Virginia since 2006.

New Legislation allows residents to now purchase sky and bottle rockets, missile-type rockets, helicopter and aerial spinners, roman candles, multi-aerial mine and shell devices, aerial shell kits, reloadables and firecrackers.

West Virginia businesses will be able to sell consumer fireworks at any location that is properly licensed by The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office. A retailer must post the certificate/license within five feet from any public entrance to any temporary or permanent structure. A firework safety fee has been included in all licenses and that will go toward volunteer fire departments and veterans.

“Consumer fireworks” means small fireworks devices that are designed to produce visible effects by combustion that are required to comply with the construction, chemical composition and labeling regulations promulgated by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission under 16 C.F.R. Parts 1500 and 1507 (2014), and that are listed in APA Standard 87-1. Consumer fireworks do not include sparkling devices, novelties, toy caps or model rockets.





Always have a sober adult in charge & never give fireworks to young children, even sparklers.



Only buy legal consumer fireworks from a licensed store, stand or tent. They typically have brightly colored labels with the manufacturer's name, directions and warnings.



Read and follow the directions on the labels.



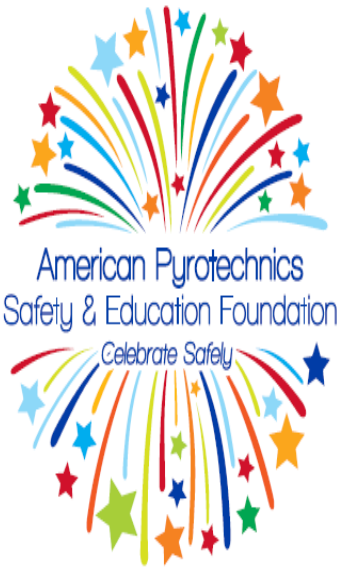
Never carry a firework in your pocket or shoot fireworks from a metal or glass container.



Keep spectators at a safe distance.



Always wear safety glasses when igniting fireworks.



Celebrate Safely

Remember, even legal fireworks can cause injury if they're not used properly. Follow these rules to celebrate safely:

The American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization focused on creating fireworks education & safety programs for youth.

Don't aim or throw fireworks at another person.



When finished, allow used fireworks to stand for at least 20 minutes, submerge in water, drain, place in a plastic bag & dispose outside in a covered trash can.



Never place any part of your body directly over a firework device.



Only use fireworks outdoors away from buildings on a flat, level, hard, fireproof surface that is free from debris.



Have a working garden hose or bucket of water handy.



Light only one firework at a time and never approach or re-ignite a firework that doesn't light the first time.



Fire Service Recognition

Every year Fire Engineering awards one firefighter in the United States the Ray Downey Courage & Valor Award. The awarded recipient receives \$35,000 prize along with a Ray Downey Courage and Valor Medal.

The fire Engineering Courage & Valor Foundation was created to ensure that we as Americans "Remember Forever" the fallen firefighters of September 11 and in their memory recognize other firefighters who demonstrate that same courage and valor in rescue missions.

The Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award commemorates the life and career achievements of Deputy Chief Ray Downey, who lost his life while commanding rescue operations at the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001. Deputy Chief Downey was chief of rescue operations and a 39-year veteran of the Fire Department of New York. He was the most highly decorated firefighter in the history of FDNY. Deputy Chief Downey commanded rescue operations at many difficult and complex disasters, including the Oklahoma City Bombing, the 1993 World Trade Center Bombing, and many natural disasters worldwide.

For his lifetime of unparalleled service to firefighters and citizens alike, and in remembrance of the courage and valor exemplified many times throughout his life, it is fitting that the Courage and Valor Award, presented to one extraordinarily courageous American firefighter each year, bear the name of Ray Downey, a truly extraordinary man.

Thousands of nominations are taken each year and are sent through a stringent review process before the winner is awarded.

Lieutenant Rick Honse risked his own life multiple times to save the life of a female who was clinging to a tree, in rapid flood waters, on a golf course, in Mineral Wells.

Lubeck Fire Chief Mark Stewart was contacted in February and Lieutenant Honse's rescue had made it through review process and was one of the final 4 people being considered for the Ray Downey Courage & Valor Award.

Lt. Honse, unfortunately, was not chosen as the 2016 Ray Downey Courage & Valor Award winner but we want to recognize him for his courageous acts of that night. It is a great honor to have made it to the final 4 in the Nation and living in the little community of Lubeck, West Virginia.



Congratulations Graduates

The push to get young volunteers is at an all time high around the country and here in the Mountain State. Departments are looking to get into schools and get kids them interested in their early years. An example of this is two young men who are now high school graduates and now serving their communities with the Pinch Volunteer Fire Dept. We'd like to recognize their accomplishments as well as all other graduates in the state for a job well done.



Joel Thaxton (L) and Cole Weese (R), both firefighters in Pinch recently graduated from Herbert Hoover High School. They rode into their graduation in style on none other than a fire truck. Congratulations to both young men as they continue to serve their communities.