



PRESS RELEASE

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Fire & Rescue Urges Caution as 4th of July Fireworks-Related Injuries Rise

Fourth of July is one of America's most celebrated festive holidays during the year evident by the sights and sounds of fireworks being discharged or used throughout the day. Rarely do we consider fireworks harmful much less deadly; yet fireworks are one of the biggest fire dangers to life and property. Each year, thousands of fireworks-related injuries are treated in hospital emergency departments throughout the United States. According to Consumer Product Safety Commission's latest, [Fireworks Annual Report \(2023\)](#), there's a significant increase in fireworks-related injuries in the U.S between 2008 – 2023, with an approximate increase of 561 injuries each year.

Although Prince William County permits the use of some fireworks, restrictions apply and for good reasons. No matter how breathtaking fireworks are or how easy they appear to use, they are potential fire starters. The Prince William County Fire and Rescue System (System) urges residents to leave fireworks to the professionals by enjoying one of the many larger aerial fireworks demonstrations/shows in the [District, Maryland](#), and [Virginia](#). Listed below are locations, in the county, of aerial displays permitted and scheduled thus far; additional locations may be added later:

DATE	LOCATION
Saturday, June 28 th	Robert Trent Jones Golf Club 1 Turtle Point Drive. Gainesville, VA
Thursday, July 3 rd	Evergreen Country Club 15900 Berkeley Drive, Haymarket, VA
Saturday, July 5 th	Sweet Virginia Farm 14610 Glenkirk Road, Nokesville, VA
Sunday, July 6 th	Dumfries Independence Day Celebration 3990 Cameron Street, Dumfries, VA

However, should you choose to purchase fireworks, the Fire Marshal's Office recommends purchasing from fireworks stands within the county all which have been permitted to sell approved fireworks. To view the list of 2025 permissible fireworks and approved fireworks stands in Prince William County, visit pwcva.gov/departments/fire-marshals-office/permissible-fireworks.

To assist residents in preparation for the Fourth of July and additional festivities held throughout the summer, the Fire Marshal's Office suggests the following fireworks safety tips:

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To assist residents in preparation for the Fourth of July and additional festivities held throughout the summer, the Fire Marshal's Office suggests the following fireworks safety tips:

- Fireworks should only be used and ignited by an adult.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors in an open space clear of spectators, buildings, vehicles, debris, and combustible materials, or on a driveway or a sidewalk.
- Fires are caused by careless handling of fireworks in areas exposed to sparks or live fireworks and improper disposal.
- NEVER dispose of fireworks in a garage or building.
- Soak spent or "dud" fireworks and sparklers in a large bucket of water for at least 20 minutes or overnight to ensure they are thoroughly cooled and extinguished.
- Keep spectators a safe distance away from fireworks at a minimum of 25 feet.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case sparks start a fire.
- DO NOT place used fireworks in a combustible container.
- NEVER aim or throw fireworks at another person.
- NEVER try to re-ignite fireworks that malfunction or fail to go off.
- DO NOT wear loose clothing when using fireworks.
- NEVER experiment or make your own fireworks.
- KEEP pets inside or away from the area when in use.

Permissible Fireworks

In Prince William County, permissible fireworks for use by consumers are defined as:

"Permissible fireworks" means any fountains that do not emit sparks or other burning effects to a distance greater than five meters (16.4 feet); wheels that do not emit a flame radius greater than one meter (39 inches); crackling devices and flashers or strobes that do not emit sparks or other burning effects to a distance greater than two meters (78.74 inches); and sparkling devices or other fireworks devices that (i) do not explode or produce a report, (ii) do not travel horizontally or vertically under their own power, (iii) do not emit or function as a projectile, (iv) do not produce a continuous flame longer than 20 inches, (v) are not capable of being reloaded, and (vi) if designed to be ignited by a fuse, have a fuse that is protected to resist side ignition and a burning time of not less than four seconds and not more than eight seconds.

The Fire Marshal's Office would like to warn County citizens that many fireworks sold through the mail/online or purchased from companies in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina are dangerous and illegal. Possession of these products is prohibited, in Virginia, and buyers should be aware and cautious of what they are buying.

If you are in possession of unauthorized fireworks, please contact the Prince William County Fire Marshal's Office for disposal at 703-792-6360. **DO NOT** throw them in the garbage! The relinquishing of unauthorized fireworks will not result in any fines or summons, and no questions will be asked.

For more information on fireworks safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association www.nfpa.org, the National Council on Fireworks Safety www.nsc.org, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) www.cpsc.gov.

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