

For Immediate Release  
Alaska Department of Public Safety  
State Fire Marshal's Office

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**Fireworks Have Become a Way to Celebrate During the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holidays...It's Our  
Responsibility to Celebrate Safely**

With the excitement of loud rumbling explosions and beautifully colored sparks flying through the air, people often forget that fireworks may contain dangerous chemicals and combustibles that can destroy property and injure people. Alaska State Fire Marshal David Tyler reminds Alaskans that fireworks can cause severe injuries or even death if not used properly. Tyler also reminds Alaskans that fireworks can cause fires that might get out of hand, destroying homes and wild lands.

"The safest way to enjoy fireworks is by attending a public fireworks display," said Tyler. As reported by the American Pyrotechnics Association, some states ban the use of fireworks by consumers, while other states permit some or all consumer fireworks. The Alaska Office of State Fire Marshal along with the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission join in advising you to observe applicable local and state laws. If the law allows you to shoot your own fireworks, pay particular attention to the following safety tips to help reduce the chances of a destructive fire and/or injury:

- Only purchase fireworks from a licensed dealer that sells certified fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that come in brown paper packaging, as this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional shows and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Never allow young children to play with fireworks.
- Adults should always supervise fireworks activities. Parents often don't realize that sparklers have caused more injuries to children under age five than any other type of firework. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework device when lighting the fuse. Move back a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not fully functioned. Douse and soak with water and throw them away.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light one item at a time, and then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.

- Avoid the combination of alcohol, drugs and fireworks.

Enjoy the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration safely and remember to practice fire safety every day. Plan your escape, install and maintain smoke alarms, and install fire sprinklers. The life they save may be yours.

### **Scheduled Commercial Fireworks Displays**

Display Date:	07/04/08
City:	Unalaska
Location:	Near Memorial Park
Display Date:	07/04/08
City:	Petersburg
Location:	Mort Fryer Ballpark
Display Date:	07/03/08
City:	Sitka
Location:	Ocean Shore at Sitka
Display Date:	07/04/08
City:	Kodiak
Location:	Across Small Boat Harbor
Display Date:	07/03/08 or 07/04/08
City:	Pelican
Location:	Tidal Flats South end of Pelican
Display Date:	07/04/08
City:	Seward
Location:	The Beach in Seward
Display Date:	07/03/08
City:	Whittier
Location:	Shores of Prince William Sound
Display Date:	07/03/08
City:	Valdez
Location:	Shores of Prince William Sound
Display Date:	07/03/08
City:	Ketchikan
Location:	Tongass Narrows
Display Date:	07/04/08
City:	Wasilla
Location:	Wonderland Park
Display Date:	07/04/08
City:	Yakutat
Location:	City Docks
Display Date:	07/03/08
City:	Skagway
Location:	The Beach in Skagway

Display Date: 07/04/08  
City: Seward  
Location: On the Beach at Lowell Point

Display Date: 07/03/08  
City: Eagle River  
Location: Eagle River Lions Park

Display Date: 07/04/08  
City: Anchorage  
Location: Mulcahy Park

Display Date: 07/03/08  
City: Juneau  
Location: On the Ocean at Juneau

Display Date: 07/02/08 through 07/04/08  
City: Wrangell  
Location: City Docks

For times, contact local authorities in each community.