



MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY

MERIDIAN – Meridian Fire Officials are asking residents to use extreme caution when setting off fireworks this Fourth of July. Chief Mark Niemeyer with the Meridian Fire Department says when purchasing fireworks, it's important to keep in mind that some stands outside of Meridian may sell fireworks that are illegal. And with triple-digit heat across the valley, the area is prime for fires, so even legal fireworks can pose a risk.

“The past three weeks, we have seen a significant rise in the number of fires we are fighting. And with these high temperatures, we are sending additional resources to the fires in order to prevent heat related emergencies in our firefighters,” said Chief Niemeyer.

Chief Niemeyer says this Fourth of July families should consider attending an event, rather than setting off their own fireworks.

“With the heat and the threat of fire, we are encouraging families to forgo their own fireworks display and attend one of the fireworks shows in the valley. Here in Meridian we have a festival and fireworks display that is perfect for families who want to see a great fireworks show but don't want to have to deal with the threat of starting a fire,” said Chief Niemeyer.

The Meridian Independence Day Festival and Fireworks event is at Storey Park on Saturday, July 4 from 3pm -10:15pm.

If you do plan to use fireworks at your home, the fireworks must be legal and used with caution.

“A fire resulting in the misuse or illegal use of fireworks could result in the responsible party being financially liable for the first response and any damages. It is the responsibility of all of us to keep our neighborhoods safe. Please help us in meeting that mission,” said Chief Niemeyer.

For more information on the Meridian Fireworks Ordinance visit our website, www.meridiancity.org. You'll also find fireworks safety tips below or on our website.





FIREWORKS SAFETY

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 buildings, 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 dispose of fireworks properly, by dousing them in water immediately.
 - DO store unused fireworks in a cool dry place.
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- 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, or have loose fuses, or appear old or show any other signs of mishandling.

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The Meridian Fire Department's mission is to protect and enhance the City of Meridian community through professionalism and compassion. The department's vision is to be a premier organization recognized for providing a safe community through professionalism, innovative actions, and community involvement.