FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS
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Fireworks-related injuries are most common on July 4 and New Year’s Eve. Fireworks can cause death and injury, including burns, contusions, lacerations, and foreign objects in the eye. Make the choice to protect yourself and your family from fireworks injuries.

• Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.

• Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities.

• Avoid buying fireworks packaged in brown paper, which often means they were made for professional displays and could be dangerous for consumers.

• Make sure you, your kids, and others watch fireworks displays from a safe distance.

• Call 911 immediately if someone is injured from fireworks.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) recommends that you can enjoy your holiday and the fireworks with just a few simple safety tips:

• Leave fireworks to the professionals. Do not use consumer fireworks.

• The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.

• After the firework display, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over, they may still be active.

If you decide to purchase legal fireworks the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) advises consumers to take these safety steps:

1. Make sure the fireworks you want to buy are legal in your area before buying or using them.

2. Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees which is hot enough to melt some metals.

3. Do not buy fireworks that are packaged in brown paper, which is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays.

4. Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.

5. Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap.

6. Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
7. Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
8. Light fireworks one at a time, then move away from them quickly.
9. After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device to prevent a trash fire.

The CPSC works with the fireworks industry, monitoring incoming fireworks shipments at the ports and enforcing federal fireworks safety rules.

The Monongalia County Health Department hopes that this information will help families make an informed decision as to how fireworks will play a part in their Fourth of July celebration. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July.

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