



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 22, 2015

**The Berwyn Fire Department Reminds Residents To Leave Fireworks To The Professionals During *Fourth of July* Celebrations**

BERWYN – As communities across Illinois are preparing for Fourth of July holiday celebrations, the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Berwyn Fire Department is reminding residents that the best way to have a safe holiday weekend is to let trained professionals handle fireworks. The public is urged to attend public firework displays and avoid using consumer fireworks.

“Every year around the Fourth of July, we see people, sometimes small children, suffer terrible injuries due to fireworks,” said Denis O’Halloran, Fire Chief. “There is no such thing as a safe firework. It’s not worth taking the risk of using illegal or

Residents are reminded that under the Illinois Fireworks Act (425ILCS 35/1), it is illegal to possess, purchase or use consumer fireworks without a consumer display permit obtained from local authorities. Since 2013, sky lanterns were also included in the list of illegal fireworks in Illinois. Individuals caught with controlled consumer fireworks without the necessary display permit could be subject to arrest.

Each year, in the United States, more than 3,500 children and adults receive injuries from sparklers. Most people do not realize that the tip of a sparkler can burn up to as high as 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature is hot enough to warp, melt and sag steel. Many adults place a sparkler in the hands of a child, unaware of these dangers. As parents and guardians we always remind children to stay away from a 350 degree oven or grill because they are hot, but unknowingly we would hand that same child a sparkler because they appear innocent and they won’t burn you.

The Berwyn Fire Department and IFSA are opposed to consumer use of fireworks. This includes sparklers and firecrackers. Be careful and remember if you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts, do not use consumer fireworks and keep a close eye on children at events where fireworks are used. Even sparklers burn hot enough to cause third-degree burns and it only takes a touch of a sparkler to ignite a cotton tee shirt.

Have a Safe & Happy Fourth of July Holiday Weekend,

Mario J. Manfredini  
Battalion Chief

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Are

# SPARKLERS

## Really Safe?

Sparklers Burn at up to

1,800° F



Aluminum Melts at

1,200° F



Glass Melts at

900° F



Wood Burns at

575° F



Cakes Bake at

350° F



Matches Burn at

325° F

