

# Portland Fire & Rescue

## Fireworks Facts & Safety – Please Celebrate Safely

### Fireworks Fact Sheet

- During fireworks season 2019 (June 23 through July 6) there were a total of 169 fireworks-caused fires in the City of Portland.
- On July 4, 2019: 21 of 33 fires in Portland were caused by fireworks.
- As reported by the Oregon State Fire Marshal, for the five years through 2019, there were 1,173 reported fireworks-related fires in Oregon, resulting in more than \$4.9 million in property loss and contents damage. During that same period, fires resulting from fireworks resulted one death and 37 injuries.
- July 4, 2011, a fire at NE 17<sup>th</sup> and Alberta caused over \$1 million in damage when an illegal aerial rocket landed on the roof and ignited a fast-moving fire. This two-alarm fire displaced three businesses and their employees including a restaurant and a coffee shop.
- According to Multnomah County Animal Services, the 10-day period around July 4<sup>th</sup> experiences a **25%** increase in dogs and cats entering the shelter when compared with a typical 10-day period in the summer. For more information go to: [www.multcopets.org](http://www.multcopets.org) or [www.clackamas.us/dogs](http://www.clackamas.us/dogs).
- **The types of fireworks that produced the most injuries** were mortars (Illegal in Oregon), fountains (legal in Oregon), and sparklers (legal in Oregon). These three types accounted for over two-thirds of the injuries. Over half of the injuries were to fingers or hands.
- Injuries to Oregonians in 2013 included; a man who blew his hand into three pieces when a bottle rocket with a 2-inch mortar exploded in his hand; and a group of 4 residents who were injured when an illegal firework fired into a crowd.

### Fireworks Safety Tips

- Observe the law - Oregon law bans possession, use, or sale of any fireworks that **fly, explode, or travel more than one foot into the air or more than six feet on the ground, these fireworks are illegal.**
- When using legal fireworks, only set them off outdoors, in a clear area, away from homes, dry leaves, or grass and other flammable materials.
- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Older children should be permitted to use fireworks only under close adult supervision.
- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that fail to ignite or explode.
- Be sure other people and pets are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Ashes & Burned Material should be placed in a metal can with a lid and stored away from combustibles or buildings.

**In an Emergency Call: 9 – 1 – 1**

**Non-Emergency, call:**

Multnomah County (503) 823-3333

Clackamas County (503) 655-8211

Washington County (503) 629-0111



[www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/fireworks](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/fireworks)