

## Safe Kids Bear River Urges Parents to Practice Summer Fire Safety

Date: 6-26-12 Fireworks safety tips as well as Utah laws regarding dates and times when fireworks can be discharged. Logan, UT &ndash; Safe Kids Bear River is urging parents to keep all fireworks out of reach of children this summer. The summer months are a time when families enjoy doing a variety of activities outdoors; however, it&rsquo;s also when devastating residential fires and serious injuries to children occur. According to the United States Fire Administration, nearly 9,000 Americans are injured by fireworks annually each year. In 2010, 3,400 children under 15 years of age were injured. More than 70 percent of those injuries occurred in the weeks surrounding 4th of July. The National Fire Protection Agency reports that sparklers, which are typically viewed by parents as relatively harmless fireworks for children, cause serious burn injuries, accounting for one-third of the injuries to children under five.

&ldquo;Sparklers are often given to children,&rdquo; said Capt. Mike Weibel with Smithfield Fire Department. &ldquo;But they can reach temperatures of 1,200 to 1,800 degrees. That&rsquo;s hot enough to melt glass and gold. Do you really want your child exposed to something that dangerous?

Weibel, who is also a member of Safe Kids Bear River, offered these safety tips when using fireworks:

- \* Don&rsquo;t let children play with fireworks. Also, if you&rsquo;re going to be discharging fireworks, maintain good supervision of your children. Several kids are injured each year when they get too close to fireworks.
- \* Use only fireworks sold in Utah. This helps ensure that they are legal to use here.
- \* Do not make or use homemade fireworks &ndash; they are dangerous and potentially deadly.
- \* Use fireworks outdoors and have a bucket of water and a hose nearby in case of accidents.
- \* Don&rsquo;t hold fireworks in your hand while lighting them. Also, don&rsquo;t point or throw fireworks at anyone.

Fireworks may be sold in Utah between June 23rd and July 27th, but they can only be discharged July 1st-7th and July 21st-27th. There is also a time restriction. Fireworks can be discharged only between the hours of 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. except on July 4th and 24th, when they can be discharged until midnight.

Logan Fire Marshal Craig Humphreys added that there&rsquo;s a good likelihood that fireworks will be prohibited in some communities this summer because of extreme fire danger. &ldquo;Check with your local fire department to make sure it&rsquo;s okay to discharge fireworks in your neighborhood,&rdquo; he said. &ldquo;To prevent injuries and fires, it&rsquo;s best to leave fireworks to the professionals and enjoy the shows they will be putting on throughout the valley.&rdquo;

For more information on fireworks safety, visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

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The mission of the Bear River Health Department is to prevent disease and disability, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the individual and community