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## **Press Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

**For further information please contact Fire Chief Gary McCarraher**

The members of the Franklin Fire Department wish everyone a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend. Unfortunately, all too often tragedy strikes during this holiday from the use of illegal fireworks. ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN MASSACHUSETTS for use and purchase without a permit or license. Fireworks should only be used by licensed professionals and enjoyed during supervised displays such as that planned for the Franklin High School at 10:00 PM on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The below information from the Massachusetts Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, illustrates the annual carnage from illegal fireworks.

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### **Be Smart! Leave Fireworks to the Professionals**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan asks the citizens of Massachusetts to set a good example for your children and leave the fireworks to the professionals. Enjoy the many displays of fireworks supervised by local fire departments and conducted by licensed professionals. Children imitate what they see adults do and if you use fireworks, they won't realize how dangerous they are. Not only do sparklers burn at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit but they also encourage the use of matches and lighters by young children. Sixty percent of the fireworks-related burn injuries reported by hospitals to the Office of the State Fire Marshal were children under age 18.

**Press Release  
July 2, 2008  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Safety**

**All fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts**

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane" such as sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs, to name a few. Sparklers burn at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated on the spot.

**Fireworks can be deadly!**

A 45-year old Gloucester woman died in a December 22, 2003 house fire when someone threw fireworks and ignited the Christmas tree in the living room. Three other people were injured. On May 20, 1997 a 26-year old man from Watertown was killed while he was lighting fireworks in a hallway. A 27-year old Framingham man was killed July 4, 1993, when his backyard fireworks exploded in his face. On July 4, 1992, fireworks fatally injured a 30-year old man on a Fairhaven beach.

**Do not purchase fireworks through mail-order or on-line catalogues**

The distribution of mail-order catalogues that clearly state that fireworks are illegal in some jurisdictions cannot be prohibited. State and local police regularly confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks into Massachusetts. Many unhappy consumers have lost both their money and the fireworks trying to circumvent the law.

**For more information visit Massachusetts Department of Fire Services or call (978) 567-3300**

**Remember fireworks are neither safe nor sane.**