Fireworks Safety and Fun Go Hand-In-Hand

-Port Orchard Police Department

Fireworks are fun, but what’s more fun than keeping all your body parts intact and having an enjoyable time this summer? The 4th of July and fireworks go together like, well, the 4th of July and fireworks. Unfortunately, there are more than 9,000 fireworks-related injuries every year. About 45 percent of those injuries involve children age 15 and under, with eyes being among the most injured body part. In addition to the eyes, those injuries included burns to the hands, head, face, and ears. Sparklers, firecrackers, and aerial devices were cited most often.

The CPSC report found that faster-than-expected explosions and unpredictable flight paths of aerial devices resulted in tragic consequences, including four fireworks-related deaths.

What can you do to prevent bodily injuries, property damage, and the possibility of putting a real damper on a good time?

Following the safety tips below can go a long way to making your 4th of July celebrations safe and happy:

- Parents should NOT allow young children to handle or use fireworks.
- Responsible adults should always closely supervise teens when they are using fireworks.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, don’t use them. It’s your responsibility to know regulations in the area you are lighting off your fireworks, this includes any last minute fire bans.
- Being under the influence and handling fireworks do not mix!
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Know your fireworks. Read the caution label before igniting.
- Do NOT use altered or modified fireworks.
- Make sure there are no other flammable materials in the area and wear safety glasses.
- Always have water immediately available when using fireworks.
- Light fireworks one at a time.
- 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.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it.
- Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Avoid using homemade fireworks or illegal explosives: They can kill you!

Fireworks are as American as apple pie and most of us enjoy a good firework show. Just remember to do your part to make happy memories and enjoyable moments, not tragic, preventable situations. The Port Orchard Police Department would like to wish you a happy and safe Independence Day celebration.

Upcoming Events

- Concerts by the Bay, June 5, June 12, June 19, and June 27, 6:30-8:00pm
- Port Orchard Farmers Market, Saturdays, 9:00am-3:00pm, Downtown
- Port Orchard First Saturday Art Walk, June 6, 2:00-5:00pm, Downtown
- God Bless America Concert, June 8, 6:00pm, Christ the Rock Church, 4100 SW Old Clifton
- Council Meeting, June 10 & June 24, Work Study Session, June 17, City Hall, 7:00pm
- Town Hall Meeting, June 12, 6:30 pm, City Hall
- Festival by the Sea Craft & Vendor Show, June 27-June 29, Downtown
- Fathoms O’ Grand Fun Parade, June 28, 6:00pm, Downtown Bay Street
- Annapolis Sunday Market, Sundays, 12-5pm, 2065 Bay Street
- Fathoms O’ Fun Grand Fireworks Show, July 4, 10:30pm, Downtown
2014 Public Works Project Updates
Mark R. Dorsey, P.E., Public Works Director

Well 10
The City of Port Orchard was recently awarded a $6M loan from the Washington State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the Well 10 final design and water quality based improvements, to bring this much needed potable water resource online. This federally funded project is currently in the professional services request for qualification and selection process. It is anticipated that the entire Well 10 project will take up to four years to complete.

Bethel Corridor – 2014 Interim Improvements
The 2014 interim improvements for the Bethel Corridor — a grind-out/asphalt repair project — is just now completing the request for qualifications (RFQ)/consultant selection process phase. The RFQ for the repair design went out to seven qualified firms on March 25, 2014. After careful review of all the RFQ’s, the design contract was awarded to the Parametric Engineering/N.L. Olson & Associates team. Once the improvement design and public outreach process is complete, the advertisement for bid will be issued. It is currently anticipated that the grind-out/asphalt repairs will be completed in a 2014/2015 timeframe.

2014 Sidewalk and Asphalt Repairs
The City’s Public Works Staff is busy assembling the 2014 list of city-wide asphalt repairs, similar to what we did in 2013. The advertisement to bid is anticipated to go out in June. In addition, annual sidewalk repair work is in progress and should continue through the summer months. To assist in this effort, the Public Works Department recently purchased a new sidewalk grinding machine, as illustrated in the picture below.

Parks
McCormick Village Park
The construction contract for the McCormick Village Park - Phase 1 Improvements was recently awarded Sound Excavation. As pictured below, a ground breaking ceremony for the new park was held on May 14th and was well attended by both elected officials and the community.

Van Zee Park
The 2014 Van Zee Park parking lot improvements are now complete. These much needed improvements will provide improved parking with a safer ingress/egress point, in advance of scheduled use by a local youth soccer club this coming Fall. See picture below.

Spring Cleanup 2014
Annual Spring Cleanup Week for 2014 is scheduled for the week of June 23rd thru June 27th. Activity schedule and guidance information will be posted on the City’s webpage and the schedule posted in the June 6th and June 20th editions of the Port Orchard Independent.

Customer's Views Welcome
Please call us at our Public Works Admin Office at 360-876-4991 or email publicworks@cityofportorchard.us with any questions. For billing information, please call 360-876-5139.