



## **ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**PREVENT PREPARE PERFORM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 27, 2019

Contact: John Jerome – Fire Marshal  
970-577-3689

### **CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY SAFELY**

The annual fireworks show at Lake Estes is a long-standing tradition that is enjoyed by many people. The Estes Valley Fire Protection District invites everyone to enjoy the fireworks at the public display conducted by professionals and asks that no one use any fireworks at home or at the local parks.

Although some fireworks may be legal in our state, make sure you use them safely. If you choose to use legal fireworks this year, the Estes Valley Fire Protection District offers the following safety recommendations:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Don't use fireworks around combustible vegetation
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting

Remember, it's illegal to set off fireworks within public parks without a permit. Any firework that explodes or leaves the ground is illegal throughout Colorado. This means no bottle-rockets, Roman candles, mortars, M-80's, M-100's, helicopters or cherry bombs. Permissible fireworks (in areas that allow them) include ground spinners, smoke bombs, sparklers, and fountains.

A listing of fireworks laws and regulations can be found at the Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control website <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/fireworks>

We wish all guests and residents of Estes Valley a happy and safe Fourth of July holiday.

*Serving the Residents and Visitors of the Estes Valley with Superior Fire and Safety Services*

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### Additional Information

According to the National Safety Council In 2017, eight people died and over 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.