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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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June 29, 2016

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Rockford Fire Issues Firework Safety Warning

ROCKFORD, Ill. – The Rockford Fire Department has issued a warning regarding the use of fireworks as Independence Day draws near. Thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks in the United States. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks which may include devastating burns, injuries, fires, and even death.

According to the National Fire Protection Association:

- U.S. hospital emergency rooms treat an estimated 8,600 people for fireworks-related injuries annually.
- The risk of fireworks injury was highest for children ages 5 to 14, with more than twice the risk for the general population.
- The greatest percentage of injuries occur to the hands and fingers and the largest percentage of specified causes are due to sparklers.

Most fireworks, some of which include bottle rockets, firecrackers, sky rockets and roman candles, are illegal in Illinois. “Sky Lanterns” or paper lanterns that contain a small candle or fuel cell that heats the air in the lantern, causing it to rise, are also illegal in Illinois.

“The best thing anyone can do is leave the fireworks to the professionals,” said Rockford Fire Division Chief Matthew Knott. “There are many great shows in the area and it is important to realize that fireworks are not only illegal, they can be very dangerous.”

The Rockford Fire Department will investigate illegal fireworks activities and will issue the appropriate citations to violators.

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