

Fireworks Position Statement



Position Statement

Muscatine County Board of Health supports the development and enforcement of safety regulations associated with the use of all fireworks within the Muscatine County area. The Board encourages that the utilization of fireworks remains in public displays by qualified licensed operators.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission's annual fireworks report from 2017 identified there to be an estimated 12,900 individuals who were treated in emergency rooms across the U.S. due to firework related injuries. Of those injuries, 54% affected extremities and 36% directly impacted the head. Children under the age of 15 were approximately 36% of the injuries accounted for in 2017. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year causing an average of three deaths, 40 injuries to humans and an average of \$43 million loss associated with property damage.

In July 2019, Trinity Muscatine Emergency Department received 6 traumas from the surrounding area due to severe firework related injuries. In addition, there were related firework impacts which included a reported dismemberment and one death in the area within the same month.

Many of us are unaware of the harmful effects fireworks can have on our veterans. It is estimated that 60-80% of our nation's veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, otherwise known as PTSD. The sounds of explosions from fireworks can bring back memories of combat which in turn can bring on PTSD symptoms. Muscatine County has over 2,000 veterans residing within our area.

In order to decrease the health and economic impact of fireworks accidents, Muscatine County Board of Health further seeks to inform the public that:

- Firework and/or explosive materials are recommended to be handled by trained and certified professionals.
- All fireworks can be unpredictable and inherently dangerous and may cause serious injury to the general public and trained technicians.
- Firework injuries can be devastating and have a negative economic impact on communities and individuals.
- Healthcare practitioners and local authorities are encouraged to report any firework or sparkle related injuries, property damages and deaths. Injuries and incidents can be reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission by calling 800.638.2772 or filing a report on the ir website, <http://www.cpsc.gov/>.
- All professionals, organizations and agencies concerned with the safety of populations in Muscatine County are encouraged to increase educational efforts to inform adults and children of the hazard associated with the use of all types of fireworks.
- Credible educational resources recommended for public use:
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks>
<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Fireworks>
<https://emergencyfireworksweebly.com/fireworks--veterans.html>
<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

