



BURKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TIPS FOR A SAFE JULY 4TH WEEKEND

Sheriff Banks Hinceman

With the July 4th weekend approaching, Sheriff Banks Hinceman asks all citizens to join him in making this Fourth of July holiday happy, enjoyable, and safe for everyone.

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (2022) found in their annual report a significant increase in fireworks-related injuries in recent years. Between 2006 and 2021, injuries caused by fireworks increased by 25%. Burke County Sheriff Hinceman urges families to stay safe during their holiday celebrations by following these safety tips:

1. Never allow children to play with or light fireworks, including sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby while lighting fireworks in case of an emergency.
3. Never use fireworks while using or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. When your fireworks have finished burning, soak them with water before throwing them out to avoid a trash fire.
5. If your fireworks malfunction or do not go off, do not attempt to handle or relight them. Soak them with water and throw them away.
6. Familiarize yourself with your area's rules and regulations on fireworks. Ensure the fireworks you are using are not restricted or prohibited.
7. Never point or throw fireworks at anyone, including sparklers.
8. Light fireworks one at a time and move back as quickly as you can.
9. Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting. Keep a safe distance.
10. Remember to have fun!

Knowing the risks of using fireworks and keeping in mind these safe handling tips can ensure you and your family have a fun and safe Independence Day.

The mission of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, Inc. is to serve as the statewide voice to protect, promote, preserve, and enhance the Office of Sheriff in North Carolina through education, training, and legislative initiatives that increase public safety and protect the rights of the citizens of North Carolina.

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Sheriff Hinceman closed with "Following these precautions will help our children and citizens stay safe and healthy this July 4th weekend and throughout the summer."