



CITY OF БЕЛОIT POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY ENCOURAGES FIREWORKS SAFETY DURING 4TH OF JULY

July 2, 2015—In advance of the upcoming 4th of July holiday weekend and related activities, the City of Beloit, along with the Beloit Police Department (BPD) and the Beloit Fire Department (BFD), want to encourage Beloiters to use fireworks safely and responsibly.

Only sparklers, snakes, tanks, spinners, party poppers, snaps, smoke bombs, cone and cylindrical fountains are legal in Wisconsin. If it goes up, shoots a flaming ball or blows up, it is illegal. **Bottle rockets, mortars, firecrackers, and roman candles are all illegal in Beloit.**

If Beloit residents choose to use legal fireworks while celebrating the 4th of July, we want to encourage the following safety precautions:

- Only adults should use fireworks. Children should only observe from a distance and not touch.
- Please do not wear loose clothing and wear eye protection.
- Anchor sparklers in the ground, please do not hold them.
- Respect your neighbors and your surrounding environment. Please obey the city noise ordinance.
- Do not dispose of hot embers and devices in the trash. Please wait until the next day to clean up.
- Call for help or go to the ER immediately if injured and please contact BFD immediately if a fire occurs.

The City of Beloit wants everyone to enjoy a happy and healthy 4th of July celebration, however, we will be actively enforcing illegal fireworks violations for those that cannot regulate their conduct and endanger others in our community.

- A person who possesses or uses fireworks without a valid permit, or who sells fireworks to a person who does not have a valid permit, is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. Each firework illegally possessed, used or sold may be a separate violation.
- A parent or guardian who allows a minor to possess or use fireworks (not including those for which no permits are required) is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation.

In additional efforts to promote your safety and enforce regulations on July 4th, BPD will be engaged in an enhanced neighborhood patrol mission in the Merrill neighborhood, specifically concentrating on the illegal and dangerous use of fireworks on Porter Avenue.

BPD encourages our community members to collaborate with us, by talking to their friends, family, and neighbors about the dangers of illegal fireworks in populated neighborhoods and discouraging such conduct.

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