



CITY OF BELOIT POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY ENCOURAGES FIREWORKS SAFETY DURING 4TH OF JULY

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, you can be cited for the violation, and your fireworks confiscated. **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.
- 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 engaging in enhanced neighborhood patrols along with speed and alcohol enforcement. The department's goal is to gain voluntary compliance so the community can enjoy this 4th of July. On June 20, 2016 the Beloit City Fireworks Ordinance was amended to include possession of illegal fireworks. This change will enhance our ability to ensure a safe 4th of July.

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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