



Arkansas House Newsletter

July 1, 2019

Firework Safety



Doctors at Arkansas Children's Hospital see the most burn cases every year between Memorial Day and Labor Day. And nationwide, more than 10,000 people are burned every year by fireworks. Over the years, the legislature has passed several laws regarding the use and sale of fireworks. For as long as Americans can remember, we have celebrated the birth of our nation with shows in public squares and smaller displays at home. We want to ensure that continues while at the same time make common sense decisions to protect Arkansans.

So this week, we'd like to remind you about a few of the laws on the books regarding fireworks. Licenses or permits from state police are required for individuals to manufacture, distribute, import, distribute, sell wholesale or retail, or shoot a combination of fireworks within the state of Arkansas. It is unlawful to sell any fireworks to children under twelve years of age or to any person known to be intoxicated or irresponsible. Fireworks may only be sold at retail stands to Arkansas residents from June 20th to July 10th and from December 20th to January 5th.

During the most recent regular session, the legislature passed Act 1093 which allows a business to apply with state police for permission to sale fire-works year round if they have a permanent physical location. Municipalities can also regulate or prohibit the sale or use of fireworks independently so double check with your local laws concerning the use and sale of fireworks this holiday season.

We also want to remind you of a law we passed in 2013 which prohibits the sale and use of sky lanterns. Also known as floating lanterns or Chinese lanterns, these devices have been known to cause structure fires and wildfires. We hope all of you have a very happy and safe 4th of July.