

Fireworks: Dangerous and Illegal

“Who doesn’t like fireworks? They are spectacular, exciting and loud, but they also start fires, damage property, injure and kill,” says Riverhead Police Chief David J. Hegermiller. “Many of these annual illegal fireworks accidents cause people to live with serious, permanent injuries or destroy property including homes. Just think how easy it is to prevent these needless accidents. Don’t use or permit the use of illegal fireworks.”

Hospitals report that nearly two thirds of fireworks-related injuries are caused by backyard fireworks, including sparklers, firecrackers and bottle rockets. The bigger and more powerful the firework, the more severe and devastating the injury.

Fireworks are now even easier to come by. Direct marketing and quick convenient access to fireworks are growing rapidly. Fireworks retailers aggressively market their contraband to New Yorkers through mail order and internet sites. Some of our surrounding states sell fireworks from roadside stands, even from tents at gas stations.

The main reason fireworks are illegal in New York State is to prevent injury and damage. If you are caught using fireworks, you are subject to arrest. More importantly, using fireworks exposes you, your children, your relatives, your neighbors and innocent bystanders to injury. “Don’t let anyone become just another statistic. Make sure that everyone has a safe, happy and accident free Fourth of July by not using or promoting the use of illegal fireworks,” says the Chief.

The Riverhead Police Department, along with all NYS law enforcement agencies, urges all Riverhead residents and visitors to the Town to follow the law. Do not use fireworks this Fourth of July. Instead, celebrate our Nation’s birth by attending only those fireworks displays conducted by professionals.

This year there will be a free fireworks show on Friday, July 4th at 9 pm in Downtown Riverhead. Best viewing is from the Peconic Avenue Parking Lot along the riverfront.

Have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July!

