

STRONGSVILLE FIRE and EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FIREWORKS Safety

Strongsville will have its annual Fourth of July fireworks display in a new location this year -- on the Commons at 9:30 p.m. on July 4. It will be preceded by family fun starting at 6:30 p.m., including food trucks, inflatables, face painting and balloon animals. The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend a professional show. It is important to know that fireworks are not safe in the hands of nonprofessionals and cause thousands of injuries each year. Despite the new Ohio law that allows for a nonprofessional to shoot off consumer grade fireworks, **personal fireworks are still illegal in Strongsville. City ordinance 1619.04 that says "No person shall possess fireworks in the Municipality or shall possess for sale or sell fireworks in this Municipality."**

A few ideas to get into the patriotic spirit, without fireworks:

1. Use glow sticks, they glow in the dark and are a safe alternative to a sparkler. Fun for all ages.
2. Loud and proud. Noise makers are sure to make a statement. They can be found at local party supply stores or make your own.
3. Outdoor movie night. Set up a screen and projector. Don't forget the bug spray!
4. Red, white and blue silly string...fun for all ages.
5. Make a patriotic craft with the family. Throw a birthday party for the USA, and don't forget the cake.

FACTS

- ✓ More than 19,500 reported fires are started by fireworks annually.
- ✓ Burns account for 44% of the 9,100 injuries treated in emergency rooms seen in the month around July 4.
- ✓ Half of the fireworks injuries seen at emergency rooms were extremities: hand, finger, or leg. One-third were to the eye or other parts of the head.
- ✓ Children ages 10–14 had the highest rate of fireworks injury, with more than one-third (36%) of the victims of fireworks injuries under age 15.
- ✓ Sparklers account for roughly one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.

