



# OREGON

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Fireworks - Keep it legal, keep it safe**

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Oregon fire service, natural resource agencies, Oregon fireworks wholesalers and safety experts encourage Oregonians to keep it legal and keep it safe when using fireworks. The 2009 Oregon fireworks sales season opens today, June 23 and runs through July 6. The OSFM and their partners want everyone to be aware of the type of fireworks legal in Oregon, where these fireworks are permitted and the simple steps everyone can take to increase fireworks safety.

“Legal fireworks may be purchased only from Oregon permitted fireworks retailers and stands,” advises State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson. “Regulations limit where those fireworks may be used. For example, fireworks are prohibited in all state parks, on all Oregon beaches, and in federal parks and forests.”

Oregon law bans possession, use or sale of fireworks that fly, explode or travel more than six feet on the ground or 12 inches into the air. Fireworks commonly called bottle rockets, Roman Candles, and firecrackers are **ILLEGAL** in Oregon.

Under Oregon law, officials may seize illegal fireworks and fine offenders up to \$500 per violation. Those who misuse fireworks or allow fireworks to cause damage are liable and may be required to pay fire suppression costs or other damage. Parents are also liable for fireworks damage caused by their children.

There were 188 reported fireworks-related fires in Oregon during 2008. Adults were involved in more than 78% of these fires. Although total dollar loss from fireworks-related fires in 2008 was relatively low at \$112,451, all fires should be taken seriously due to their potential to cause death, injury and major property damage.

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“All Oregonians share the responsibility to use only legal fireworks and use them carefully,” adds Simpson.

Steps to safer use of fireworks include:

- Be prepared before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- Be safe when lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks.
- Be responsible after lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Wait 15 to 20 minutes then soak in a bucket of water before disposal.

More information may be found at:

[http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Licensing\\_Fireworks\\_Home.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Licensing_Fireworks_Home.shtml)

The Three B's of fireworks safety brochure is available here:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Licensing\\_permits/fireworks/Fireworks2005/3BesFullPage.pdf](http://egov.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Licensing_permits/fireworks/Fireworks2005/3BesFullPage.pdf).

Safety tips in Spanish are also available at:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Licensing\\_permits/fireworks/3Bes3rdSpanish.pdf](http://egov.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Licensing_permits/fireworks/3Bes3rdSpanish.pdf).

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