



City of South Beloit Fire & Police Department

Fourth of July Fireworks Safety Bulletin

Celebrate Safely – Protect Your Family, Neighbors, and Community

As Independence Day approaches, the South Beloit Fire and Police Department encourage all residents to celebrate responsibly. Every year, fireworks cause serious injuries, fires, property damage, and preventable deaths. Understanding Illinois fireworks laws and following basic safety practices can help ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for everyone.

Illinois Fireworks Laws

Illinois has some of the nation's strictest fireworks laws.

Legal for General Public Use

Only certain novelty items are generally permitted, including:

- Sparklers, Snakes, Party poppers, Smoke devices, Trick noisemakers

Even these items can cause serious injuries and fires if used improperly. Sparklers can burn at temperatures exceeding 1,200°F to 2,000°F—hot enough to melt metal and cause severe burns.

Not Generally Legal for Consumer Use

The following are prohibited for most Illinois residents:

- Firecrackers, Bottle rockets, Roman candles, Aerial shells, Mortars, Reloadable fireworks

Illinois law only permits consumer fireworks displays in municipalities that have adopted ordinances allowing them and when specific permitting requirements are met.

South Beloit Fireworks Ordinance Reminder

The City of South Beloit prohibits the possession, sale, use, or discharge of fireworks within city limits unless a permit has been issued for an approved public display. Permits are subject to strict requirements, including approval by the Fire Chief, proof of insurance, compliance with state and local regulations, and operation by qualified licensed personnel.

Residents should also be aware that property owners and occupants may be held responsible if illegal fireworks are used, sold, or possessed on their property.

Violations of the City of South Beloit Fireworks Ordinance may result in fines ranging from \$200 to \$750 per offense. In addition, confiscated fireworks may be seized and destroyed by court order without compensation.

For those wishing to review the complete ordinance, please visit:

[ARTICLE III. - OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC PEACE AND SAFETY | Code of Ordinances | South Beloit, IL | Municode Library](#)

Remember: Purchasing fireworks in another state does not make them legal to possess or use in Illinois.

Fireworks Safety Tips

If using legal novelty fireworks:

Before Lighting

- ✓ Read all instructions and warning labels.
- ✓ Use fireworks only outdoors in a clear area.
- ✓ Keep spectators at a safe distance.
- ✓ Keep a bucket of water, garden hose, or fire extinguisher nearby.
- ✓ Supervise children at all times.

While Using Fireworks

- ✓ Light one item at a time.
- ✓ Move away immediately after lighting.
- ✓ Wear eye protection whenever possible.
- ✓ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks activity.
- ✓ Stay sober—never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Never

- ✗ Hold fireworks in your hand while lighting them.
- ✗ Point fireworks toward people, vehicles, homes, or pets.
- ✗ Attempt to relight a "dud."
- ✗ Allow children to handle sparklers without close adult supervision.
- ✗ Place any part of your body over a firework while lighting it.

Disposal

After fireworks are completely finished:

1. Soak them thoroughly in water.
2. Wait until cooled.
3. Place them in a non-combustible container before disposal.

Fireworks Injury & Death Statistics

National Statistics (2024)

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- **14,700 people were injured** by fireworks in 2024.
- **11 fireworks-related deaths** were reported.
- **1,700 injuries involved sparklers alone.**
- **36% of injuries involved hands and fingers.**
- **22% involved the head, face, and ears.**
- **Burns accounted for 37% of all emergency room-treated injuries.**

Who Gets Hurt?

The highest injury rates occur among:

- Teenagers and young adults
- Children under age 10
- Adults ages 25–44

Many injuries result from misuse, device malfunctions, or unsafe handling practices.

Illinois Statistics

According to the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal:

- During the 2024 reporting period, **156 fireworks-related injuries** were reported.
- **One fatality** was reported.
- Children ages 0–6 and 11–16 experienced significant increases in injuries compared with the previous year.
- Mortar-style fireworks were involved in the largest percentage of reported injuries.

Fireworks and Fires

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that fireworks caused:

- **12,264 fires nationally in 2021**
 - Including:
 - 2,082 structure fires
 - 316 vehicle fires
 - 9,866 outside and other fires
 - Resulting in approximately **\$59 million in property damage.**
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The Safest Choice

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professionally conducted public display. Professional displays are conducted by trained operators using approved safety procedures and equipment. Both the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal and the National Fire Protection Association recommend attending professional displays whenever possible.

South Beloit Fire & Police Department Safety Message

Celebrate Independence Day responsibly.

A few moments of excitement are never worth a life-changing injury, house fire, or tragedy. Protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and our first responders by following Illinois law and practicing safe fireworks habits.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Prepared jointly by the South Beloit Fire and South Beloit Police Department – July 2026