

Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

Chief John R. Batiste



Office of the State Fire Marshal *Michael G. Matlick, State Fire Marshal*

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Karen Jones
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Media Event Reducing Fireworks-Related Injuries and Fires

What: A press conference highlighting:

- Safety when using consumer fireworks with a demonstration of safe practices by lighting some large fountains.
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) with a demonstration using a manikin showing the damage IEDs can cause.

Who:

- State Fire Marshal Michael G. Matlick, Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Deputy State Fire Marshal Karen Jones, Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Mr. Jerry Farley, Fireworks Industry
- Compliance Investigator Marcus Morris, Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Special Agent Phillip Whitley, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

When: **June 25, 2009, 10:00 a.m.**

Where: Midway Park
29th Ave & South 221st Street
Des Moines, WA 98198

Why: Retail fireworks stands open across the state on June 28th. From 2004 through 2008 there were 4,811 fireworks-related emergency incidents reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office. Nearly 36% of the injuries reported were to children 14 and under. Fireworks-related emergency responses can be reduced if fireworks are stored in a secured location out of sight and reach of children.

We would like to remind everyone of the three B's of fireworks safety:

- Be Prepared—Have water nearby and put pets indoors,
- Be Safe—Only adults should light fireworks, and
- Be Responsible—clean up fireworks debris.

Don't take any chances, be sure the fireworks you purchase are legal to possess and discharge. Know the dates and times fireworks are allowed in your community. Stay away from high powered illegal explosive devices. Do not alter fireworks or make any type of homemade device. The damage they cause can be devastating and life altering. For more information visit our website at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/fireworks.htm>.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!

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