

**Washington State Patrol
Media Release
Chief John R. Batiste**



**State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Charles P. LeBlanc**

**Captain Monica Alexander
Government and Media Relations
(360) 596-4010 – Office
(360) 596-4015 – Fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>**

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

Date: June 27, 2018
Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Lysandra Davis
Phone: (360) 596-3929
E-mail: Lysandra.Davis@wsp.wa.gov
Twitter: @wafiremarshal

Wildland and Vegetation Fires Caused by Fireworks in 2017

Olympia – Summer weather conditions can make vegetation extremely dry and susceptible to fire. In 2017, 63 wildland and vegetation fires accounted for 76 percent of all fireworks-related fires reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office; resulting in over \$8,600 of loss and damages.

A small fire can easily get out of control when grass and other vegetation are present. When firework comes into contact with a vegetated area, use a hose or a bucket of water to heavily soak the area, ensuring there are no hot spots that could rekindle later.

Anyone found responsible for starting a wildland fire may be required to pay restitution for the fire suppression costs and damages caused by the fire, which could be in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars.

When lighting fireworks, always remember to use the three "B's" of fireworks safety:

- Be Prepared – Have water nearby and put pets indoors
- Be Safe – Only adults should light fireworks
- Be Responsible – Clean up fireworks debris

For more information about fireworks safety or the fireworks laws for your area, visit the State Fire Marshal's fireworks webpage at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks/>.

The State Fire Marshal's Office 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!**