June 30, 2014

City of Joliet Reminds Residents About Fireworks Safety

With fireworks season at hand, residents are reminded of the deadly dangers posed by fireworks.

Pursuant to the Illinois Fireworks Use Act (425 ILCS 35), any consumer firework distributor, company, association, group or retailer, must be registered and licensed with the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). In Illinois, it is illegal to possess, purchase, or use consumer fireworks without a consumer display permit obtained from local authorities. Individuals caught with controlled consumer fireworks in Illinois, who lack the necessary consumer display permit, could be subject to arrest.

“It is absolutely imperative that families keep their children safe by obeying Illinois Laws. The concept of safe fireworks is nonexistent,” said State Fire Marshall Larry Matkaitis. “Please plan to attend the local firework displays in your community and let the trained professionals handle them,” said Joliet Fire Chief Joe Formhals.

The following are statistics on hospital emergency room injuries involving fireworks in the United States:

- Thirty nine percent of injuries by fireworks are received by children under 15 years old
- Sparklers, which burn at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, are the leading cause of juvenile injuries
- Sparklers, novelties, and fountains account for 43 percent of injuries

According to the National Council of Fireworks Safety, careless use of fireworks causes nearly 10,000 injuries a year in the United States; close to 2,000 of those injuries are eye-related, involving children under age 15. For more information on fireworks safety, please visit www.FireworksSafety.org or www.sfm.illinois.gov.

James D. Hock
City Manager

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.cityofjoliet.info or call 815-724-4000.