



Kevin Jenison, Communications Manager Pro Tem | Email: kjenison@muscatineia.gov
City of Muscatine | 215 Sycamore St. | Muscatine, IA 52761 | Phone: 563-264-1550

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legal fireworks usage begins July 1 in Muscatine

Consumer firework usage allowed from July 1 through July 8 at specific times

MUSCATINE, Iowa – The City of Muscatine will permit the use of fireworks during a one week period in July and a one week period at the end of the year following approval by the City Council of an amendment to the City Code. Recently passed State legislation allowed the sale and use of consumer fireworks and allowed local municipalities the option to limit the time period to legally use or explode the fireworks.

The City urges citizens to be responsible regarding the use of fireworks and to remain within the guidelines established in the Muscatine City Code as amended. Public safety is the foremost concern for City officials, concern for individuals who use fireworks and concern for structures that may become ignited by fireworks.

Consumer fireworks can be used or exploded **July 1-July 8 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. on weekdays (including Friday) and from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4 and the Saturdays and Sundays before and after July 4.**

Consumer fireworks can also be used or exploded **December 26-January 3 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. on weekdays (including Friday), from 9 a.m. on December 31 to 12:30 a.m. on January 1, and from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on the Saturdays and Sundays before and after December 31.**

Per state law, a person shall not use, explode, or discharge consumer fireworks on real property other than that person's real property or on the real property of a person who has consented to the use of consumer fireworks on that property. Sidewalks, the right-of-way between sidewalks



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and the street, and the City streets are all public property and thus are prohibited. Parks, trails, public parking lots and so on are also off limits.

Using fireworks outside the designated dates and times listed below is considered to be a violation and can result in fines of no less than \$250 per violation. Anyone discharging fireworks or allowing the discharge of fireworks on their property assumes responsibility for that discharge and the consequences, if warranted.

The City also encourages residents to be good neighbors during this first year of legal consumer fireworks usage. Please be considerate to any neighbors who may have a sensitivity to fireworks noise, be mindful of pets who may become frightened by the firework explosions, and be mindful of the property lines of others who may not want fireworks on their real property.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) offers these recommendations:

- Do not allow young children to play with fire-works. Sparklers, a firework often considered by many to be the ideal “safe” device for the young, burn at very high temperatures and should be not be handled by young children. Children may not understand the danger involved with fireworks and may not act appropriately while using the devices or in case of emergency.
- Older children should be permitted to use fireworks only under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horseplay.
- Set off fireworks outdoors in a clear area, away from houses, dry leaves, or grass and other flammable materials.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that fail to ignite or explode.
- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.



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- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never light fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Check instructions for special storage directions.
- Observe local laws.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework while lighting.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.

Report any fires in buildings, vehicles, or greenspaces by calling 911 immediately!

Enjoy a safe holiday season.