



# CITY OF MUSCATINE PRESS RELEASE

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## **CITY OF MUSCATINE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Public Safety Building, 312 E. 5th Street, Muscatine, Iowa | (563-263-9233) | FAX (563-263-5534)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 3, 2018

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## **FIREWORKS APPARENT CAUSE OF VEHICLE FIRE SUNDAY**

*Muscatine Fire, Police urge area residents to follow firework safety practices*

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – Fireworks was determined to be the cause of a vehicle fire Sunday that destroyed the interior of a pickup truck in Muscatine.

The Muscatine Joint Communications Center (MUSCOM) received a 911 call at approximately 11:15 p.m. Sunday, July 1, 2018, of a vehicle on fire at 215 East 6th Street. The Muscatine Fire Department responded to that location and found a pickup that had total involvement of the interior. Fire crews were able to quickly bring the fire under control.

The investigation into the area of origin and the cause of the fire began immediately. Based on the physical evidence presented, burn patterns, witness reports, and remnants, it was determined the fire was caused by a firework.

The Muscatine Fire Department would like to remind everyone that the legal times to use fireworks in the City is on Tuesday, July 3, and Wednesday, July 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day. In addition, anyone using fireworks is requested to use accepted safety practices,



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consider the limitations of the area in which you use the fireworks, be considerate of your neighbors, follow all related laws, and use common sense.

Those using consumer fireworks are also reminded to take into consideration pets and veterans who may be affected by the explosions.

Since June 1 of this year, the Muscatine Police Department has responded to 111 fireworks related calls for service, and there have been seven fireworks-related arrests. During the same period last year there were 169 calls for service and six fireworks-related arrests. The continued effort of the Police Department in regards to investigation of fireworks related offenses and enforcement of state and city code is appreciated.

Over the weekend a series of compliance checks was performed jointly by the Police and Fire Departments. Both agencies are dedicated to ensuring as safe a holiday season as possible. Four of the seven tents assessed did sell to an underage buyer and were cited.

The Safety Flyer developed for public use can be accessed at <http://www.muscatineiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14723/Muscatine-Fireworks-Safety?bidId=>

All fireworks sales in the City are required to include this flyer as well.

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