



## News Release of June 30, 2022



### CAUTION URGED WITH FIREWORKS USE; DATES UPDATED

Many people celebrate the Independence Day holiday with fireworks. The best and safest way to do so, is to attend a public fireworks display conducted by licensed pyrotechnics professionals. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Alpena Chamber of Commerce, and generous support from many businesses and individuals, this year's Alpena 4th of July Fireworks Show at Mich-e-ke-wis Park is going to be outstanding!

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For those who prefer to light their own consumer fireworks, Fire officials urge caution. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission released a study this week, showing that fireworks injuries across the nation have increased by 25% between 2006 – 2021. Last year, at least nine people dies and an estimated 11,500 were seen in hospital emergency rooms for injuries involving fireworks. The National Fire Protection Association reports that more than 19,500 fires were started by fireworks. Professionals agree that the safest way to enjoy fireworks is at a licensed, public display like the Alpena 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.



#### Tips to Celebrate Safely:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit—hot enough to melt some metals

- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move quickly away from the fireworks device.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never point or throw fireworks (including sparklers) at anyone.
- After fireworks complete their burning, to prevent a trash fire, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area, and only purchase and set off fireworks that are labeled for consumer (not professional) use.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Consider safe alternatives like glow sticks, noisemakers or red, white and blue silly string.

The Alpena City fireworks ordinance mirrors state law, which has been changed. Use of consumer fireworks are only permitted on June 29, 30, July 1, 2, 3, and 4 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 a.m. Overnight use is prohibited, as is use on July 5. Use of consumer fireworks at all other times is prohibited within the City, in the interest

of safety, and to preserve peace and enjoyment for residents and pets that are often negatively affected by fireworks use.

The ordinance further clarifies that fireworks cannot be ignited without the express written permission of the property owner, and cannot be used by persons under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. Use of consumer fireworks on City property, including parks and beaches during the 4th of July celebration, is prohibited at all times.