



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Larry Hogan
Governor
Brian S. Geraci
State Fire Marshal

--- MEDIA RELEASE ---
For Immediate Release

STATE FIRE MARSHAL WARNS OF FICTITIOUS ONLINE FIREWORKS POSTER

STATEWIDE (June 16, 2020) - The Office of the State Fire Marshal has been made aware of a fictitious online poster circulating on various social media accounts, referencing Independence Day celebrations and Social Distancing. The author would have the reader believe Governor Hogan has issued a directive on a specific way to handle sparklers as well as a limited time celebrating outdoors. This poster is simply fake and was produced without the authority of the Governor's Office or the Office of the State Fire Marshal. We would not direct citizens on a specific time to be outside and recommend the latest CDC guidelines on how to properly socially distance. Due to complications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing, many applicants have elected to not hold most outdoor displays, however, citizens are permitted to use legal fireworks in approved areas. Fireworks are PROHIBITED in Baltimore City, Montgomery, Prince George's, Harford, and Howard Counties as well as Ocean City.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is the lead agency on the regulation of explosives and fireworks in Maryland, and its duties include the issuance and renewal of licenses of firework shooters, explosive blasters, explosive manufacturing, and explosive sales throughout Maryland. The agency is also responsible for issuing a Permit for Fireworks Display once the applicant has met specific criteria. The Office of the State Fire Marshal will process any application which it receives and will grant approval upon meeting guidelines. Check the Maryland State Fire Marshal website at www.firemarshal.mdsp.org for listed public fireworks displays throughout the state.

For those individuals who insist on the use of consumer fireworks:

- Purchase the fireworks in the location where you intend to discharge them. Check with the local municipality to determine what fireworks are considered legal for use in that area.
- Read and follow label warnings and instructions.
- Do not allow small children to use fireworks.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages while using fireworks.
- Have a bucket of water or hose available
- Fully extinguish remains of fireworks in water before disposal.
- Continue to exercise personal responsibility in order to keep ourselves, our family members, our neighbors, and our coworkers safe

“Fireworks have been a long tradition of the 4th of July holiday celebrations. Please make safety your number one priority so everyone can enjoy the holiday season.” adds the State Fire Marshal. ***“By acting responsibly, we can help eliminate fireworks injuries in Maryland.”***



**SEE BELOW FOR THE
FICTITIOUS ONLINE POSTING**





THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Official Independence Day Safety Enforcements 2020

All citizens will be allowed no more than two sparklers for the day. Sparklers must be held at a stationary 45 degree angle at all times.
All other fireworks are not permitted, failure to comply will result in immediate detention.

All citizens will be allowed 30 minutes outside for celebration time. Social Distancing must be practiced as always, for safety purposes. Hugging, kissing or touching of any kind will not be permitted.
failure to comply may result in multiple fines of \$1,200 to be assessed per occurrence.

Here are some recommendations to celebrate safely!

Instead of setting off or watching actual fireworks.. just post pictures of firework from last year on social media! Instead of attending a barbeque or party, just post pictures on social media and give others a like! Celebrities and corporations all agree this is what is best for everyone, they care about you, we care about you!

Celebrate your Independence Responsibly!


Governor Larry Hogan




Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford



FICTITIOUS ONLINE FIREWORKS POST

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an agency of the Department of State Police dedicated to helping protect citizens from fire and explosion through a comprehensive program of education, inspection, investigation and fire protection engineering. For

more information on fire safety call 1-800-525-3124, log onto our website at:
[Maryland State Fire Marshal](#) and/or our [Facebook Page](#).

1201 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD 21208

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---- MEDIA CONTACT ----

Oliver Alkire
Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal/ K9 Handler "Kachina"
Assistant Public Information Officer
Office 410-836-4846 Cell: 240-580-7934

ARSON HOTLINE: 1-800-492-7529

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