



Environmental, Health and Safety News

July 2012

We're Proud of Our Work

Something to Think About!!

Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable pursuits become tedious.

[Thomas Aquinas](#) 1225-1274

Welcome to the new year, 2012
Deeper into SAFETY AWARENESS we should delve.

Fireworks Safety

This month's safety topic is courtesy of **Tobias Insurance Group**. This is a very timely topic. Over the years more and more people are having their own fireworks displays. With the extremely dry conditions that exist in much of our territory this year we are encouraging you to take extra care with your Fourth of July celebration.

Keeping Your Celebration Injury Free

Fireworks are a staple of many Fourth of July and other celebrations, but it is important that you take precautions to ensure your special event is safe and free of accidents.

The risks:

Unfortunately, many people do not realize just how dangerous fireworks and sparklers can be – which is a primary reason that injuries occur. Fireworks not only injure the users, but can also affect bystanders.

Bottle rockets and firecrackers can fly in any direction and may explode on or near someone instead of up in the air. Sparklers are also a huge risk, as they burn at very high temperatures and are often given to children too young to use them safely. All fireworks pose potential risks of burn, blindness and other injury.

Tips for safe use:

When using fireworks, always plan carefully in advance for who will shoot them and what safety precautions you will have in place. Here are some suggestions to ensure safety and avoid accidents:

- Use fireworks and sparklers outdoors only.
- Only use fireworks if they are legal where you live (check local laws).
- Always have a hose or water bucket handy.
- Only use fireworks as intended. Do not alter

or combine them, and do not use homemade fireworks.

- Keep spectators a safe distance away.
- Wear safety goggles when handling or shooting off fireworks.
- Do not shoot fireworks off if under the influence of alcohol.
- Never give sparklers to young children and watch all children carefully.
- Show children how to properly hold sparklers, how to stay far enough away from other children and what not to do (throw, run or fight with sparkler in hand).
- Point fireworks away from homes, trees or bushes.
- Never try to relight a dud (a firework that didn't properly ignite).
- Soak all firework debris in water before throwing away.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them from metal or glass containers.

A story on WTHR channel 13 Indianapolis on June 24th related how concerns for private fireworks displays and the dry conditions is troubling many fire departments in Indiana.

“One third of the State of Indiana is under a burn ban but State law does not allow local governments to ban fireworks from June 29th to July 8th.”

“Last June Fishers (a community just north of Indianapolis) firefighters had one grass fire for the entire month. They've had 46 already this month and they're braced for that number to go even higher.” I am sure that this is a common issue across at least northern Indiana.

The headline of the news report was: “Fireworks Discouraged Due to Dry Conditions”. Please use extreme caution at all times with fireworks, but especially this year!!



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**Safety is never an accident: it is
always the result of high inten-
tion, sincere effort, intelligent di-
rection and skilled execution! It
represents the wise choice of
many alternatives!!**

Ten Additional Things To Think About

Abraham Lincoln has been credited over the years with saying a lot of intelligent things. The following ten things that "You Cannot . . ." were attributed to him, but in reality these words were written by a Presbyterian clergyman and pamphlet writer, Rev. William J. H. Boetcker. The part that amazed me was when these words were written . . . The year was **1916!** If you will take the time to think about these words, they still apply today and with it being an election year, it would be nice if the candidates would take these words to heart.

1. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
2. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
3. You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.
4. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
5. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.
6. You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.
7. You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

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8. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
9. You cannot establish security on borrowed money.
10. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they will not do for themselves.

This number 10 brings to mind the proverb that is attributed to various Chinese scholars: Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime.



**Have a safe and happy 4th of July celebra-
tion and enjoy your Summer!**

EEDHS—Everyone, every day, home safe!