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Chief: Fireworks inherently dangerous so be very cautious

By KIM SCHMIDT , Hub Staff Writer

KEARNEY — As long as there have been fireworks there have been people mishandling them.

“Everybody has probably had a close call with fireworks at one time or another,” said Jerry Thompson, Kearney Volunteer Fire Department chief.

With fireworks going on sale in Kearney today, combined with the dry weather throughout the area, firefighters are asking people to use common sense when it comes to igniting them. Firefighters are also asking parents to increase their supervision of their children.

“We’re constantly trying to make people more aware that they need to be extra careful with fireworks because the materials in them are very unstable. You have to worry about fireworks even if you’re trying to do them the right way. The product itself is a dangerous product,” Thompson said.

Tuesday and Wednesday, KVFD Administrator Ken Tracy inspected 15 stands that are selling fireworks throughout the city. Fireworks may be sold and discharged legally in Kearney from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. today through Sunday and from 8 a.m. to midnight Monday and Tuesday.

Last week, KVFD conducted a fireworks safety workshop for children up to age 6. Tracy said 20 children attended.

e-mail to:

kim.schmidt@kearneyhub.com

Fireworks Safety

To help people celebrate the Fourth of July safely, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following tips:

- Always read and follow label directions.
- Have an adult present.
- Buy from reliable sellers.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Always have water — a garden hose and a bucketful — handy.
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- Never re-light a “dud” firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- If necessary to store fireworks, keep them in a cool, dry place.
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Stay away from illegal explosives.



Hub photo by Brad Norton Heather Crawford stacks packages of fireworks in her stand at Bob’s Super Store. Fireworks stand owners were able to get their city permits this morning.

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