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## City of Branson

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# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** June 25, 2009

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Knowing that fireworks add immensely to our enjoyment of the Fourth of July holiday and to keep your family safe, the Branson Fire Department urges people to *Celebrate Safely* when purchasing and discharging fireworks.

Missouri residents are encouraged to also know their local laws for sales and display of fireworks as several communities have banned their sale and use. In the City of Branson, fireworks may be purchased through July 10 and discharged from 7 a.m. to midnight on July 3 and 4 only.

To date there are nine (9) permitted fireworks stands in Branson for the 2009 season.

The fire department has issued three commercial fireworks display permits for Branson Landing on July 3, Treasure Lake on July 4 and Chateau on the Lake July 4.

Injuries are most commonly associated with the display of fireworks. Children especially suffer injuries to the eyes, head and hands. Even seemingly harmless, sparklers cause many injuries. For children under the age of five, sparklers account for three-quarters of all fireworks injuries. Fascinated by the bright sparks, little children may wrap their hands around a stick of fire that maintain temperatures reaching 1800 degrees.

Following injuries, fireworks cause thousands of fires each year across the nation. Lighters, matches, and projectile type fireworks are the leading causes of fires during the Fourth of July holiday. A misguided bottle rocket landing on a roof may start a devastating fire. Even with rainfall averages above normal over the past weeks, firefighters also have a deep concern for fireworks causing grass and brush fires.

As a safety reminder, firefighters offer these simple tips:

- Always purchase fireworks from reliable fireworks stands that sell only Class C (common) or 1-4.G fireworks
- Follow the label directions carefully and use common sense. Fireworks activities should always be done under the close supervision of an adult and never point fireworks at another person.
- Use fireworks only in a clear area outside away from buildings and vehicles. Never shoot fireworks in a metal or glass container; light only one item at a time and move away quickly.
- Finally, always keep a water source close to extinguish any small fire.

For additional information on the safe displaying of fireworks, contact the Branson Fire Department at 337-8580.