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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

12/30/2024

Shreveport Police Department Shares Firework and Firearm Safety Tips

As the New Year's celebrations approach, the Shreveport Police Department is reminding residents to prioritize safety when handling and enjoying fireworks. While fireworks are a festive tradition for many, improper use can lead to serious injuries, fires, and legal consequences. Additionally, it is important to remember that discharging a firearm into the air is illegal and extremely dangerous.

The Shreveport Police Department encourages everyone to follow these essential safety tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable celebration:

1. Know the Law:

- Please refer to the attached city ordinance on fireworks to familiarize yourself with local regulations regarding the use of fireworks within Shreveport.
- Discharging a firearm into the air is illegal. The projectiles from firearms can fall to the ground, potentially causing serious injury to individuals or damage to property.

2. Use Fireworks Responsibly:

- Always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- Never aim fireworks at people, animals, buildings, or vehicles.
- Light fireworks outdoors in an open area, away from dry grass, trees, and other flammable materials.

3. Supervise Children:

- Only adults should handle fireworks.
- Always supervise children closely around sparklers and other small fireworks.
- Keep fireworks out of reach of young children.

4. Be Prepared:

- Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of fire.
- Do not attempt to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Instead, soak them in water before disposing of them properly.

- Never use fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

5. Consider Alternatives:

- For a safe and spectacular celebration, consider attending a professional fireworks display instead of lighting fireworks on your own.

The Shreveport Police Department wishes everyone a happy and safe New Year's celebration. By following these safety tips, we can ensure that fireworks remain an enjoyable part of the holiday season, while also preventing the dangers of irresponsible firearm use, which can lead to harm and damage in our community.

Sec. 30-91. - Consumer fireworks.

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(a)

Definition. The term "fireworks" whenever used in this section shall be held to mean any division 1.4 firework, to include but not limited to, sparkler, squib, rocket, firecracker, roman candle, signal lights, fireworks, or other devices or composition used to obtain visible or audible pyrotechnic displays.

(b)

Possession or sale prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to have, keep, store, use, manufacture, offer to sell, handle, or transport any pyrotechnics within the city except as herein provided, it being the intention of this section to prohibit the sale of, distribution of, or discharge of pyrotechnics of any kind or description whatsoever within the city. In addition to those fireworks, the possession, sale, and use of which is prohibited in this section and R.S. Title 51, it shall be unlawful for any person to, at any time, possess, sell, or use any type of bottle rockets or sky rockets with sticks. It shall be unlawful for any person to, at any time, possess, sell, or use sparklers containing chlorates or perchlorates.

(c)

Exceptions. Nothing contained in this section shall be held to apply:

(1)

To the possession of use of signaling devices for daily consumption by railroads, trucks, or vessels requiring them.

(2)

To pyrotechnic display of fireworks in public parks or other open places where a permit for such display has been issued by the chief of fire prevention.

(3)

To the discharging of permissible fireworks which shall include, but not be limited to, the following division 1.4 pyrotechnics subject to approval of the chief of the fire department and/or chief of fire prevention as described in R.S. Title 51:650.

(d)

Permit applications, use, etc. Application for permits shall be made in writing to the chief of fire prevention at least 15 days before 5:00 p.m. in advance of the date of the display. After such privilege shall have been granted, sale, possession, use, and distribution of fireworks of such retail sale and display shall be lawful for that purpose only. No permit granted hereunder shall be transferable. The fire department has the authority to waive fees as determined by the fire chief or

his designee.

(1)

Such application shall be accompanied by a check that is nonrefundable for the amount of \$250.00 paid to the order of the city.

(2)

If after 5:00 p.m. of the 15th day in advance of the retail sale and display date, there will be a \$500.00 penalty fee which must be paid by check to the city before any application will be approved.

(3)

After 5:00 p.m. of the fifth day in advance of the retail sale and display date, there will be a \$1,000.00 penalty fee, which must be paid by check to the city before any application will be approved.

(e)

Sale and use of sparklers.

(1)

Before the sale, offering for sale, or use within the city, of any sparklers, the retailer of the sparklers shall submit upon request sufficient samples for inspection to the fire inspector. Documentation must be provided from the manufacturer or distributor to fire prevention at the time of application to sell retail fireworks documenting that the sparklers intending to be sold do not contain chlorates or perchlorates.

(2)

All sparklers sold in the city shall be sold in boxes and each box shall be clearly marked that the sparklers contain no chlorates or perchlorates.

(3)

Fireworks for retail sale may not be manipulated from the design in which they were manufactured and intended to be used.

(4)

Any manipulation or alteration from the manufacturer's intended design and use of retail fireworks will be considered a violation and the Louisiana Revised Statutes (LRS) and/or federal laws will be used to determine the violation committed.

(f)

Unused fireworks. Any fireworks for retail sale that are not sold must be packaged and stored properly according to manufacturer's guidelines and any state or federal authority that has codes, laws or guidelines for the safe packaging and storage of fireworks.

(g)

Seizure. The chief of fire prevention or his authorized representative may seize, take, remove or cause to be removed at the expense of the owner, any items they deem or reasonably believe is a hazard to life and/or property, or is stored or held in violation of this section.

(h)

Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be punished as provided in [section 30-55](#).

(i)

Permissible fireworks. Fireworks legal for sale and use in the state by the general public.

(j)

Permissible location for discharge. Fireworks shall be discharged on private property only unless approved by the chief of the fire prevention division.

(k)

Dates and hours for sale, discharge, ignition or explosion of fireworks.

(1)

The sale, discharge, ignition or explosion of fireworks authorized for sale pursuant to R.S. 51:650 through R.S. 51:660 is prohibited in the city limits, except from noon June 16th through 10:00 p.m. June 20th, noon July 1st through 10:00 p.m. July 5th and noon December 15th through 10:00 p.m. January 1st of each year. The hours of discharge, ignition or explosion of lawful fireworks are restricted to those in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)

On the dates set forth in subsection (1) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge, ignite or explode fireworks within the city limits between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.; provided, however, such activities shall not be unlawful on December 31 of each year between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. and on January 1st of each year between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m.

(1)

Educational flyer required for each sale. Retailers shall provide an educational flyer to each customer with every sale of fireworks, the flyer shall include the following:

(1)

List of the dates and hours of lawful discharge, ignition, and explosion as provided in subsection (k).

(2)

Statement that fireworks can only be used on private property with the permission of the owner.

(3)

Statement urging the buyer to be a good neighbor and to consider the elderly and those persons with medical conditions making them more susceptible to loud noises.