

Safety News from Northport Fire Department

By Jim Mahoney

Happy Birthday America!

Next week Americans will proudly celebrate the 236th birthday of our nation. Families and friends will attend community parades, picnics and barbecues. And of course there will be fireworks displays. These displays are exciting, colorful, extremely popular and also potentially dangerous.

Statistics provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show the damaging effects caused by fireworks. Their figures from 2010 reveal the following;

- Over 8,600 fireworks injuries treated at hospital emergency rooms.
- Over 15,500 fires started by fireworks.
- Over 36 million dollars in fire damages directly caused by fireworks.

NFPA states, "The risks of fire death relative to usage shows fireworks to be more risky per hours of usage than cigarettes." Approximately 40% of those injured are male children under the age of 15. In 2010, 83% of fireworks caused injuries involved fireworks that federal regulations had approved for consumer's use. Even the ever popular sparkler is a real danger to children who don't realize how hot the burning section gets (over 1000° Fahrenheit). Parents need to spend time discussing fireworks safety with their children. Young people have to be aware of the potential dangers of home fireworks and also the fact that these fireworks are illegal.

There are many professionally produced fireworks shows in the metropolitan area, especially the Macy's 4th of July display. Safety News urges all Americans to safely enjoy our country's birthday.

Swimming and Water Safety

Media reports continue to detail swimming fatalities where people ventured into restricted beach areas and/or those areas where a lifeguard was not on duty. Reports are also published of high speed boat crashes where the boat operator is under the influence of alcohol. With the high density of boats in our waters and with the powerful boat engines that propel these light

boats, more care and caution is needed. There is a definite need for a designated boat operator. And for all boat occupants a properly donned and secured flotation vest is a must.

125th Anniversary Book

Safety News is pleased to report steady progress on the 125th Anniversary Book. This history will be told in the same format as the centennial book. There will be no full page advertising. Rather businesses, professional people and friends will have an opportunity to sponsor a page in the book. This will be a credit given at the bottom of the page being sponsored. The 125th Anniversary Committee has been able to maintain the same page sponsorship rate of \$250. Local residents can be listed as friends of the department for \$70 which will include a copy of the book.

The book itself will cost \$50. Orders for this book will officially start in early fall. All anniversary books must be pre-ordered and prepaid. Northport Firefighter Bob Lahey is the author and has already completed a number of interesting chapters. Order forms will be in the mail in late September.

Coming Events

Northport Firemen's Fair – (Steers Ave & Clipper Dr) Monday July 9th thru Saturday July 14th.
Meet Your Friend the Firefighter – (Fire Headquarters) Saturday September 22nd, 12 noon – 2 PM.

More details will follow in future Safety News columns.