



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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Fireworks Are Dangerous and Illegal in New Jersey

TRENTON, June 28, 2007 – “The 4th of July should be celebrated with family and friends but celebrating with illegal fireworks can result instead in tragedies and time at hospital emergency rooms,” said Commissioner David J. Socolow of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD).

A survey of New Jersey hospitals by LWD showed that, last year, 12 people were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries. Nationally, more than 10,000 people were injured by fireworks in 2005 according to the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Adults should protect children from the dangers of fireworks and leave fireworks displays to the professionals. “You shouldn’t let a child handle dangerous fireworks any more than you would let a child play with the stove. Even sparklers, which burn at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, present a serious danger to children,” Socolow added.

“Not only are fireworks dangerous, but selling, setting off or even possessing fireworks in New Jersey is prohibited no matter where you bought them,” Commissioner Socolow said. “Ads for Pennsylvania fireworks outlets can mislead New Jerseyans into thinking fireworks bought across the border are legal. Pennsylvania law doesn’t preclude these outlets from selling to out-of-state residents but bringing fireworks into New Jersey is illegal and under New Jersey law, there are serious penalties for the sale, possession or use of fireworks.

Anyone found guilty of using or possessing illegal fireworks can be charged with a disorderly person’s offense. Selling or possessing fireworks with the intent to distribute however, is a more serious offense and penalties can include a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 18 months.

Public fireworks displays are allowed in the state but they require a permit issued by a municipality and the displays must be produced by qualified individuals.

Concerned citizens should contact their local police departments about illegal fireworks.

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