

# ***Fox Crossing Police Department***

## **INFO BULLETIN**

### *Fireworks Safety and the Law*

Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks - devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death. With that in mind, the Fox Crossing Police and Fire Departments would like to remind our residents and visitors of the laws regarding the use of fireworks.

State law allows the sale, possession and use, without a permit, of sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs, caps, noisemakers and confetti poppers with less than ¼ grain of explosive mixture. A commonly used rule of thumb is that a permit is required if the device explodes or leaves the ground.

However, municipalities may enact ordinances that are stricter than state law. The Town of Menasha had adopted such an ordinance in 2006. In short, the **Village of Fox Crossing ordinance allows only for the use and possession of sparklers and snakes**. Penalties for violating this ordinance can reach up to \$298. The village also does not issue any permits for the sale of fireworks within Fox Crossing.

The Fox Crossing Fire Department offers the following safety tips while using fireworks that are allowed in the village:

- **Observe local laws. Only sparklers and snakes can be legally discharged in the Town.**
- **Use fireworks outdoors ONLY.**
- **ALWAYS read and follow label directions.**
- **ALWAYS have an adult present; NEVER allow younger children to handle or light fireworks. Sparklers can be dangerous if children are unsupervised.**
- **NEVER experiment with or make your own fireworks.**
- **Dispose of sparklers properly by soaking them in water before discarding; have a full bucket of water nearby.**
- **Watch what you wear; loose clothing can catch fire.**

Follow these safety tips, not only during the upcoming celebration, but at all times, and you will help keep the environment safe and “sparkling.”

To view the Fox Crossing ordinance on fireworks, visit the website at [www.foxcrossingwi.gov](http://www.foxcrossingwi.gov), Ordinances, Fire Department, 5.18 FIREWORKS.