



**MOLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**GARY C. FRANQUE, CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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DATE: July 1, 2009

With the approach of the Independence Day holiday period, the community is again reminded of the dangers and the illegality of fireworks products.

Generally, fireworks are dangerous and can not be considered safe, especially near children. Annually thousands of people are treated at hospital emergency rooms for fireworks related injuries, including burns, finger, and eye injuries. Fireworks cause thousands of structure and vehicle fires resulting in millions in property damage. Most fireworks products are illegal to use, or even to possess in Illinois. More information regarding fireworks and fireworks regulations can be found on the web site of the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal at:

<http://www.state.il.us/osfm/FirePrevention/FireworksDisplays.htm> .

During the 2009 holiday period the Moline Police Department will respond as soon as possible to reports of the unlawful use or possession of fireworks. Additional officers may be assigned at times to respond to fireworks complaints. Responding officers will attempt to locate the persons using fireworks and, depending on the circumstances, may cite or arrest any subjects suspected of being in possession of and/or igniting fireworks illegally. Officers may also confiscate all illegal fireworks as evidence or as contraband.

Persons found to be in possession of illegal fireworks can be cited for Unlawful Possession of Fireworks, a violation of the Moline Code of Ordinances, which carries a fine of up to \$750.00. Persons may also be arrested for Unlawful Possession of Fireworks, a violation of Illinois Compiled Statutes, a Class A Misdemeanor which carries a fine of up to \$2500.00 and up to 364 days in jail.

Residents can report the unlawful use of fireworks by calling the police / fire non-emergency number at 797-0401. Callers are asked to determine as accurately as possible the location of the suspected unlawful activity, and relate the specific information to police / fire call takers.

**Any incident that has resulted in a fire, or an injury requiring emergency response, should be reported by calling 911.**

The City of Moline asks the cooperation of all citizens in preventing injury and property damage by refraining from the use or possession of all illegal fireworks.

Citizens are asked to use legal fireworks products safely and only according to recommended instructions, and to be considerate of neighbors when using such products.