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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OSHKOSH POLICE DEPARTMENT OSHKOSH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Date: June 27, 2013
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Contact: Officer Joseph Nichols
Public Information Officer
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Subject: Fireworks

The Oshkosh Police Department and Oshkosh Fire Department are reminding citizens to be careful when handling fireworks that are legal to have in the City of Oshkosh and are also reminding citizens that some fireworks are illegal in the city limits of Oshkosh and the person in possession of or using those fireworks are subject to a \$217.50 fine.

Those fireworks that are **illegal** are those that leave the ground or explode. This includes: Firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, wheels, aerial salutes, among other types of fireworks that leave the ground and/or explode.

Those fireworks that are **legal** include: sparklers not exceeding 36" in length and not containing magnesium, chlorate or perchlorate; snakes not containing mercury; and cylinder and/or cone fountains.

The Oshkosh Police Department will have a "No Tolerance" strict enforcement on the possession and usage of the fireworks ordinance and those in violation will receive a citation.

The Oshkosh Fire Department is alerting citizens that they need to use extra caution when utilizing fireworks near people, homes and businesses. Fireworks have the potential of generating temperatures of over 2000 degrees Fahrenheit which will burn skin, clothing and other flammable items, including homes and businesses. If in doubt, snuff the fireworks out.

Each year, thousands of people in the United States experience traumatic injuries when using or being around fireworks. In 2012, six deaths were reported in the U. S. caused by illegal firework devices and over 8,500 people went to the emergency room for injuries caused by fireworks, legal or illegal. In these incidents, the fireworks caused lethal head and body trauma, arm, hand and finger amputations. The ages of those killed while handling fireworks ranged from 17 to 61 years and were all males. Handling illegal fireworks should be left to the professionals who have a permit in the City of Oshkosh. All fireworks should be handled with the knowledge that an untimely detonation may occur or the fireworks may not function as described.

The majority of calls taken by the Oshkosh Police Department during the 4th of July week are noise complaints caused by illegal fireworks. Be mindful that your neighbors may be sleeping and have to work early in the morning. Respectful neighbors make a happy neighborhood. Prohibit the use of illegal fireworks at your home.

July 4th is a time to be Patriotic and celebrate this great nation's birthday. Celebrate safely and with legal fireworks only.

The Oshkosh Police Department and Oshkosh Fire Department wishes you a safe and enjoyable 4th of July holiday.

If you are in doubt whether the fireworks are legal or illegal, please contact the Oshkosh Police Department or Oshkosh Fire Department for more information.

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