

4th of July:

Don't Get Burned by Others Fun!

In most communities, open areas, such as empty parking lots, are a tempting place for setting off fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July. While this holiday is a time to celebrate our Nation's independence, far too often it results in fires and injuries because of their use.

From 2006-2011 there were 3,925 firework-related fires reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal by fire departments resulting in \$17,566,217 in property loss.



In order to lessen the impact of firework-related losses to your facilities, we recommend implementing the following risk control procedures:

- **Prohibit firework use on property**
Post signs and notify law enforcement officials of the ban on fireworks for your organization's property.
- **Turn on/set sprinklers**
Be sure the water does not enter buildings. If equipped with automatic sprinklers, have the program turn on the sprinklers around the building every ten minutes with a ten minute run cycle.
- **Turn on lights**
While this might seem like a wasteful use of energy, the fact that the lights are on inside the building gives the appearance that the building is occupied. This will cause potential holiday revelers to think twice before setting off fireworks on the organization's property.
- **Increase security**
For high risk areas that have a known history of problems with vandalism, trespassing, burglaries, etc., it is recommended to post security and/or extra patrols around the property.

Washington State Patrol – Fireworks Safe Campaign Kit link:
http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/docs/fireworks/campaignkit_intro.pdf

Have Questions?

If you have any additional questions regarding this risk alert, please contact your local agent, or your Canfield Risk Control Representative directly at 800.407.2027.