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## Media Release

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June 27, 2017

### **City of Joliet Reminds Residents About Fireworks Safety**

With fireworks season at hand, residents are reminded of the deadly dangers posed by fireworks.

Pursuant to the Illinois Fireworks Use Act (425 ILCS 35), any consumer firework distributor, company, association, group or retailer, must be registered and licensed with the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). In Illinois, it is illegal to possess, purchase, or use consumer fireworks without a consumer display permit obtained from local authorities. Individuals caught with controlled consumer fireworks in Illinois, who lack the necessary consumer display permit, could be subject to arrest.

Those at the greatest risk of injury are young children under the age of nine. Children often come in contact with devices that are perceived to be less powerful, such as sparklers and bottle rockets. However, all fireworks have the potential for causing damage and injury. Sparklers, for instance, burn at temperatures of above 1,200 degrees – temperatures high enough to melt glass.

The State of Illinois, Division of Fire Prevention, reported the highest number of fireworks-related injuries last year were caused by sparklers and firecrackers. Injuries affecting fingers and hands were the highest, followed by eye injuries. Second degree burns were the leading type of injury. “There are no safe fireworks. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts,” said Joliet Deputy Fire Chief Greg Blaskey.

For more information on fireworks safety, please visit [www.FireworksSafety.org](http://www.FireworksSafety.org) or [www.sfm.illinois.gov](http://www.sfm.illinois.gov).

**Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.**  
**Interim City Manager**

The City of Joliet is the third largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. Home to 149,386 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.cityofjoliet.info](http://www.cityofjoliet.info) or call 815-724-4000.