# SAFETY STEPS FOR SAFE OPERATION OF FIREWORKS

### FOR YOUR SAFETY....

- Enjoy fireworks from a safe distance
- Use fireworks outdoors in clear areas away from houses and buildings
- Light fireworks carefully and then move away quickly
- Use clearly labeled fireworks with the State Fire Marshal's Seal
- Purchase Safe and Sane fireworks from approved retailers only

## FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION CALL 385-6830

#### PLEASE...

- Don't use fireworks in vacant lots or areas with dry weeds and brush
- Follow printed instructions carefully
- Carefully supervise small children around fireworks

### AND NOW FOR SOME HISTORY

Every year, the oohs and ahs of fascinated spectators can be heard echoing throughout the land in celebration of Independence Day. Fireworks on July 4th have become a national tradition enjoyed by both young and old alike

Fireworks were first used by the Chinese some time during the Ming Dynasty between 1232 and 1368. Fireworks were carried back to Europe by the Crusaders some time during the 13th Century. By the 15th Century, fireworks were widely used in Europe for celebrations, weddings, and religious ceremonies.

Fireworks first became prevalent in the United States during the 18th Century, primarily in the Northeast. The South used fireworks on Christmas Eve, originating from the general holiday the plantation slaves were given. In fact, fireworks were used in celebration of Independence Day as early as July 4th, 1777. Independence Day is the national fireworks festival in the United States and is the largest celebration of its kind in the world.

## Compliments of:

City of Merced Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau 99 E. 16th Street Merced, CA 95340 (209) 385-6830



- PRESENTS -

## FIREWORKS & YOU



DO'S AND
DON'TS
OF
FIREWORKS

### YOU AND THE LAW

The Child Protection Act of 1966 banned large, exploding fireworks and other devices containing more than 2 grains of explosive composition.

The California Health and Safety Code in Chapter 8, Section 12700 provides that the violation of the regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal for possession, sale, transportation, manufacturing, or discharge of unclassified fireworks is punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

#### REMEMBER...

- Any person who causes injuries or damage with fireworks may be held for civil or criminal charges.
- Parents should note that they may be held liable for damages or injuries caused by their children using fireworks
- Dangerous fireworks should not be confused with fireworks classified as Safe and Sane, bearing the State Fire Marshal's seal on each item or package.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO IF

- 1. You see someone using dangerous or illegal fireworks...
- 2. You have information on person(s) manufacturing, possessing, storing or selling dangerous or illegal fireworks...

#### ...REPORT VIOLATORS TO:

Merced City Police Dept. at 385-6905.

#### SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS

As required by law, every firework item or package for small devices MUST clearly state or show:

- The State Fire Marshal's seal
- A warning label
- Safe firing instructions
- The name of the firework
- The manufacturer's name

Fireworks should be of sturdy construction. Fuses should be securely attached and items with bases, should resist tipping over.

Generally, Safe and Sane fireworks DO NOT include any devices that explode or become airborne.

### FIREWORKS DANGER SIGNALS

Avoid fireworks that:

- Are leaking powder
- Have loose fuses
- Appear to be old
- Show signs of mishandling

Avoid fireworks that appear to have been wet and dried. Water affects the chemicals inside which may cause the device to misfire.

Fireworks that are illegally made can be identified by their scant labeling and are not constructed with the proper safeguards.

## ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS FIREWORKS

ANY ALTERED SAFE AND SANE FIRE-WORKS. Altering of any safe and sane fireworks (i.e. Piccolo Pete) is illegal.

**CHERRY BOMB.** Red in color, approximately 1 inch in diameter. Creates a large explosion, Resembles a Cherry.

**BOTTLE ROCKET.** A firecracker-like cylinder attached to a stick 6 to 8 inches long. Upon ignition, the rocket shoots into the sky 20-40 feet, and explodes.

**COMET OR MINE.** A cylinder containing a star attached to a wooden base. The star is shot 50-100 feet in the air and glows as it drops to the ground.

**FIRECRACKERS**. A small noise maker about 1.5-2 inches in length. Sometimes fused and strung in line together.

**M-80**. The military designation for a 2 inch red cylinder. Contains a large quantity of flash powder to simulate the sound of a grenade exploding.

**ROMAN CANDLE**. A 6-12 inch tube containing layers of black powder and stars. Stuck in the ground the candle shoots the stars 12-15 feet in the air.

**SALUTE.** A small cylinder resembling a large firecracker. Contains a large amount of flash powder.