



**For Immediate Release**

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**Safety Tips for Spectators at Public Fireworks Displays**

**Bethesda, MD – June 16, 2004** – The fireworks industry’s leading trade group says it is expecting a record year for attendance at public fireworks displays. The American Pyrotechnics Association predicts that patriotism and post-war enthusiasm will increase attendance at public fireworks displays in honor of our nation’s independence. To ensure that these celebrations remain safe, the APA offers spectators the following suggestions:

- Obey all ushers or monitors and respect the safety barriers set up to allow the trained operators room to do their job.
- Resist any temptation to get too close to the actual firing site. In fact, the best view of the fireworks display is from a quarter of a mile or more away.
- Although it rarely happens, it’s possible that a firework component might fall to the ground without exploding. Do not touch these fireworks.
- If you happen to find any firework item that has not exploded, immediately contact the local fire or police department.
- Leave the lighting of all fireworks to a trained pyrotechnic operator when you attend a public display. Sparklers, fountains and other items that are permitted for sale and use by private citizens in 43 states plus the District of Columbia are not appropriate to use when a large crowd is present. Leave your own fireworks at home – the display will provide plenty of excitement.
- Leave your pets at home – the loud noise from the “booms” can scare animals and hurt sensitive ears.

“Regardless of whether this is someone’s first time attending a public display in years or just a few months, we all have a responsibility to help make Independence Day celebrations safe and enjoyable for everyone,” said APA Executive Director Julie Heckman.

**About the American Pyrotechnics Association**

The APA is the leading trade association of the fireworks industry. The APA supports and promotes safety standards for all aspects of fireworks. The APA has a diverse membership including regulated and licensed manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, importers and suppliers of fireworks and professional public display firms. Additional information about the fireworks industry, facts & figures, history of fireworks, and state laws, can be found on APA’s web site at [www.americanpyro.com](http://www.americanpyro.com)

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