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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Celebrate Safely This 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

With Independence Day right around the corner, Lake Stevens Fire reminds the community to be safe when celebrating the holiday with their family and friends. Be aware of the dangers of fireworks and be responsible. All kinds of fireworks, including those purchased at legal stands can be destructive or deadly if handled irresponsibly. Even the smallest of fireworks, such as sparklers, can reach 1200-1800 degrees Fahrenheit which is hot enough to cause third degree burns. The safest way to enjoy fireworks this holiday is to view them at a permitted fireworks display.

According to the WA State Fire Marshal's Office, serious fireworks-related injuries from June 1 to July 31, 2016 in Washington State rose by 40%. There were 226 fireworks related fires reported resulting in \$199,500 in property loss.

Lake Stevens Fire recommends the following precautions for adults choosing to use fireworks:

- Do not allow children to light or handle fireworks.
- Light fireworks only on smooth, flat surfaces, and aim them away from spectators, buildings, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Do not lean over fireworks when lighting them.
- Do not relight fireworks that malfunction.
- Keep spectators at a safe distance, 20 feet from fireworks is recommended.
- Teach your children to "stop, drop, and roll" if their clothes catch on fire.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or hold them close to your face.
- Do not modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher on hand in case a firework malfunctions, to put out stray sparks, and to soak used fireworks before disposing of them.
- Make sure pets are in a safe place. Animals can become innocent victims of stray fireworks and may experience anxiety from the noise. More pets become lost on this day than any other.
- Be a good neighbor and be respectful of your neighbors' property, family and pets. Obey the time restriction for discharge and clean up the debris when you are done.
- Be fire smart and dial 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency!

The display of consumer fireworks in Lake Stevens and unincorporated Snohomish County is permitted on *July 4th from 9am to Midnight only*. Purchase only legal fireworks, available at licensed stands.

To dispose of illegal fireworks, please deliver them to a firefighter at either Fire Station 81 located at 12409 – 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE, LS or Fire Station 82 located at 9811 Chapel Hill Road, LS where they can be properly stored for collection and disposal.

Lake Stevens Fire encourages the public to enjoy the fireworks conducted by trained professionals. Be safe and enjoy your 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

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**LAKE STEVENS**  
**FIRE**

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Fire Commissioners:  
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