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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Safely This 4th 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. Washington state law RCW 70.77.136 provides a list of legal consumer fireworks that are authorized to be discharged within City limits. 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 Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, serious fireworks-related injuries from June 1 to July 31, 2017 in Washington State rose by 3% from 2016. There were 83 fireworks related fires reported resulting in \$59,200 in property loss and 262 injuries.

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 within the city limits.

To dispose of illegal fireworks, please turn them in to one of our LSF fire stations at the following locations: Station 81 at 12409 21st Street NE, LS; Station 82 at 9811 Chapel Hill Road, LS; or Station 83 at 13717 Division Street, Snohomish. If you have additional questions regarding fireworks, please feel free to call Lake Stevens Fire at 425.334.3034 or email fireprevention@lsfire.org.

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

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LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

Phone: 425.334.3034
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"Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow"

Fire Commissioners:
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Fire Chief Kevin K. O'Brien

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