



Greg Champagne
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News Release

DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS DURING NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Sheriff Greg Champagne would like to remind the citizens of St. Charles Parish that it is legal to shoot fireworks in St. Charles Parish but the times are limited for the New Year's Holiday.

According to St. Charles Parish Council Ordinance, it is allowable to discharge fireworks ONLY during the following time periods during the New Year's Holiday:

**DECEMBER 31ST FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 1:00 A.M. ON JANUARY 1ST
JANUARY 1ST FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 10:00 P.M.**

The Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to complaints about fireworks use outside those hours as well as in areas deemed unsuitable for fireworks to be discharged in. "The St. Charles Parish Council in 2013 responded to many citizens' request for a limited time to celebrate responsibly. I urge citizens to respect the rights of their neighbors and the law by confining the discharge of fireworks to these hours only. Another common complaint is the trash and debris left on public streets following the celebration. If you use fireworks, please clean up after yourselves. Abuse of this privilege could easily result in the council repealing the limited use of fireworks," said Sheriff Greg Champagne.

It remains illegal to ignite fireworks within 1,000 feet of a gas station or an industrial facility, or any other location named in the ordinance. However, those who use fireworks should use them in a responsible manner to ensure the safety of users and bystanders. Sheriff Greg Champagne urges those who use fireworks to be mindful of safety precautions recommended by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.

Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.

Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Some parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.

Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.

Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.

Never point or throw fireworks at another person.

Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.

Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.

Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.

After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water.