

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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**Office of the State Fire Marshal**  
**State Fire Marshal Charles Duffy**

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**\*\*\* For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** June 21, 2012  
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## **Media Event** **Reducing Fireworks-Related Injuries and Fires**

**What:** A press conference highlighting:

- Safety when using consumer fireworks with a demonstration of safe practices by lighting some large fountains.
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) with a demonstration using a manikin showing what kind of damage an IED can cause.

**Who:**

- State Fire Marshal Charles M. Duffy, Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Mr. Jerry Farley, Fireworks Industry
- Compliance Investigator Marcus Morris, Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Special Agent Phillip Whitley, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Special Agent Brennan Phillips, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

**When:** Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Renton Fire Training Center  
1900 Lind Ave SW  
Renton WA

**Why:** Retail fireworks stands open across the state on June 28th. In 2011, there were 476 fireworks-related injuries and/or fires reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal by fire departments and hospital emergency rooms. Of these 476 reports received, there were 264 fires and 212 injuries. The fire incidents resulted in \$568,846 in property loss.

We would like to remind everyone of the three B's of fireworks safety:

- Be Prepared—Have water nearby and put pets indoors,
- Be Safe—Only adults should light fireworks, and
- Be Responsible—clean up fireworks debris.

Don't take any chances, be sure the fireworks you purchase are legal to possess and discharge. Know the dates and times fireworks are allowed in your community. Stay away from high powered illegal explosive devices.

Do not alter fireworks or make any type of homemade device. The damage they cause can be devastating and life altering. For more information visit our website at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/fireworks.htm>.

*The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.*

**PREVENT FIRES**  
**IT'S YOUR JOB!**

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