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## NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: CYNTHIA SCOTT, PIO  
PHONE: 732-431-6400 ext. 1113

### **SHERIFF WARNS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF FIREWORKS**

**Monmouth County:** Sheriff Shaun Golden wants all to enjoy the backyard barbeques, family gatherings as well as professional fireworks displays that will be taking place in Monmouth County to mark the Fourth of July holiday. During this celebration, the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office is reminding people that fireworks are dangerous and illegal, with the exception of certain sparkling devices and novelty items, and should only be handled by the professionals. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 230 people on average are treated for fireworks related injuries on a daily basis during the month around the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

"The result of fireworks being handled in the wrong way can cause serious injuries," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "It's important to know that the danger is not only limited to general Fourth of July fireworks. Even sparklers, which have recently become exempt from the state's fireworks ban, should be kept away from small children, as they can easily cause harm."

In 2016, during a two week period, prior to and after the Fourth of July holiday, the Monmouth County 9-1-1 Communications Center received 193 calls related to fireworks. For 2015, during that time period, there were 168 fireworks related calls.

"It's our intent to have that number decrease this year by sending the message out to stay clear of fireworks," said Sheriff Golden. "Let the professionals handle the fireworks and celebrate America's independence responsibly and safe."

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