



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operations Division

130 W. ST. PAUL AVENUE
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53188-5172
TELEPHONE 262/524-3668 FAX 262/524-3670

Joseph Hoffman, Assistant Fire Chief

www.ci.waukesha.wi.us/

Press Release

To: All Media Outlets
From: Joseph (Joe) Hoffman, Assistant Fire Chief
Date: July 5, 2019
Re: Fourth of July Incidents in the City of Waukesha

The City of Waukesha Fire Department had two Fireworks related incidents last evening, and asks everyone in our Community to be safe, and not utilize any illegal fireworks in our Community.

At approximately 2155 hrs, the City of Waukesha Fire Department was standing by at the City of Waukesha Fireworks show at the Waukesha County Fairground. Mid-way through the show, before the finale, a shell unintentionally detonated on the ground, in its launching vessel. This detonation caused several other surrounding shells to detonate. A total of three individuals were injured by the unintentional detonation. All people that were injured were employees of Spielbauer Fireworks Inc., who the City of Waukesha contracted with for the fireworks show. The three injured employees received minor injuries. All three were treated on the scene by City of Waukesha Fire Department personnel and refused further treatment or transport to the hospital. The fireworks show did eventually resume, after about a 15-minute delay in the show and the show concluded without any other incidents. No spectators or City staff were injured due to the unintended shell detonation.

The City of Waukesha Fire Department also responded at 0041 hrs to a reported garage fire at 237 Tenny Avenue. Crews arrived on scene at 00:47 and reported a working fire on the exterior of the of a detached garage at that location. Fire Department crews quickly brought the fire under control at 0052. The fire was determined to have started in the trash cans that were stored on the exterior of the garage. Individuals were noted in the area shooting off fireworks approximately an hour before the incident, but all individuals interviewed by the Police and Fire Department denied placing anything in the trash can where the fire started. The incident is still currently under investigation. An initial damage estimate is estimated at \$30,000.

The Fire Department reminds all members of our Community that most fireworks are illegal to shoot off in the City of Waukesha. "A general rule of thumb is anything that leaves the ground is not allowed to be shot off in the City of Waukesha, without a City of Waukesha Permit. These permits cannot be bought at a fireworks stand," stated Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Hoffman. "As demonstrated yesterday, at our own Communities fireworks show, fireworks even in the hands of professionals can cause injuries and have unexpected results." All fireworks are dangerous! Even sparklers burn at heat levels above 1800 degrees. The Fire Department reminds everyone, that whenever you dispose of items in trash cans make sure they are cool to the touch. "We recommend placing sprinklers and other hot materials in a bucket of water and allow them to remain there over night to ensure that they are out, before disposing of them in any trash container," continued Hoffman.

No additional information will be released for this incident. Please contact the on-duty Battalion Chief at (262) 524-3669.

-END

