

Pembroke Pines Fire Department Offers Safety Tips for Fourth of July

BY DEBBY TEICH

Although the Fourth of July is traditionally known as a fun holiday, it is also the one that typically has the most fires. Often, it is children and teens that are injured, since they do not know how to use fireworks safely. The Pembroke Pines Fire Department wants to make sure that its residents are as safe as possible.

"This is a time Americans look forward to celebrating and it is important people don't forget to be careful," said Sandra Lluis, Fire Marshal for the City of Pembroke Pines. "Most people do not realize that the use of illegal fireworks results in an increase of serious injuries."

According to Lluis, Florida categorizes illegal fireworks as: roman candles, bottle rockets, mortars, or anything that explodes, flies or lifts-off. Under Florida law, residents can purchase approved small fireworks, such as sparklers, glow worms, fountains and snakes. Lluis warns, however, that there is still an increased risk of injury even when using approved fireworks.

"Common injuries include serious burns to the hands, fingers, head, face, ears, eyes, and torso," said Lluis. "Some firework novelties can reach high temperatures between 1,300 and 1,800 degrees - at least 200 degrees hotter than standard butane lighters."

Lluis says that knowing and following just a few safety tips can help everyone have a safe and fun Fourth of July celebration. The Pembroke Pines Fire Department advises all residents to follow these precautions:



- Never allow young children to play with or ignite approved fireworks.
- Older teens should only be allowed to use approved fireworks under close adult supervision.
- Purchase approved fireworks from reliable sellers. Avoid buying fireworks from retailers that make you sign a waiver.
- Read and follow the caution label before igniting.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Light only one firework at a time and never hold any part of your body directly over the firework while lighting.
- Never attempt to re-light a "dud" firework. Instead wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak it in a bucket of water and throw it away.

- Never light fireworks near a house or building, dry leaves or grass, or any other material that can catch on fire.
- Keep a fire extinguisher, a bucket filled with water, or water hose on-hand for emergencies.

A complete list of Florida-approved sparklers can be found on the State Fire Marshal's website at the following link: <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfp/Documents/ApprovedSparklerList.pdf>

For information, visit www.ppines.com or send an email to slluis@ppines.com.

CSI: STEM/Leadership Youth Camp Creates, Shapes and Inspires Future Innovators

BY DEBBY TEICH

This summer, kids can learn about leadership, participate in fun STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities, take exciting field trips, and meet with a local judge. The Broward County Crime Commission's CSI: Leadership Youth Summer Camp offers all of this, and more.

One of the roles of the Broward County Crime Commission is to assess and evaluate crime in Broward County, as well as social issues that can lead to crime, and work with the Criminal Justice System to come up with solutions. The camp was developed to better educate the youth of Broward County about the Criminal Justice System and enhance public safety/community relations, so that incidents such as Ferguson, Missouri, do not happen again.

"If kids have the tools, skills and inspiration to change the world, there would be less crime," said James DePelisi, CEO/President of Broward Crime Commission. "At the camp, they learn about STEM and leadership, as well as respecting the law and Criminal Justice System. We want kids to understand all of the great things that they can achieve in life."

The summer camp program is for children ages 6 - 14 years old, and it is open to the entire community. It runs from June 15 to August 14, Monday to Friday, from 8am - 4:30pm. Aftercare is also

available. Instructors include: retired police officers, active police officers, certified school teachers, college students, engineers, retired engineers, and others.

The kids will learn about law enforcement and courtroom procedure. They will listen to guest speakers from various law enforcement agencies, the State Attorney's Office, the US Attorney's Office, and judges from within the Broward County Courthouse. They will participate in leadership, self-esteem, and confidence building activities. They will engage in theoretical and conceptual science projects that are associated with STEM (including forensics) and relate to real world situations. They will also take field trips to public safety, criminal justice, and environmental venues that tie in with camp modules.

"This camp would not be possible without continued support from Pembroke Pines Police Department's Chief of Police Dan Giustino and Assistant Chief of Police Neil Vaughan," said DePelisi. "We also owe thanks to Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School for letting us use their campus."

For information, visit www.broward-crime.org or send an email to Hope@BrowardCrime.org.

