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APA Credits Fireworks Industry for Record Low Injury Rate

*Active Fireworks Safety Program and Strict Adherence to Regulations
Leads to Lowest Injury Rate Ever*

Bethesda, Maryland – June 26, 2001 - Since 1976, when the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission promulgated the current federal standards for consumer fireworks, the fireworks-related injury rate has fallen by 86% setting a 24-year low. Amazingly, this has occurred while fireworks usage has skyrocketed during the same time period. Fireworks usage has increased four-fold from 29.0 million pounds in 1976 to over 152.6 million pounds in 2000, whereas the injury rate has dramatically dropped from 38.3 injuries per 100,000 pounds of fireworks to 5.4 injuries per 100,000 pounds of fireworks.

Julie L. Heckman, Executive Director of the American Pyrotechnics Association, credits the fireworks industry for the significant decline in injuries and applauds the efforts of the industry which include actively promoting safety and working to ensure adherence to the strict safety regulations for manufacturing, storage, transportation, and use. Heckman says, “the fireworks available today are the highest quality, safest and most spectacular ever made”.

Why this growth in fireworks usage? According to Heckman, the bicentennial celebrations initiated a spark in America’s interest and fascination with fireworks. The industry experienced steady growth in fireworks usage from year to year through the late 1980’s. Another surge in usage occurred in 1990 with increased introduction of special pyrotechnic effects and “close proximity” fireworks and the consumption rate has continued to climb steadily throughout the past decade where fireworks usage has more than doubled (67.6 million pounds in 1990 to over 152.6 million pounds in 2000). Industry revenue climbed to more than \$610 million in 2000, in comparison to a previous high of \$425 million in 1998. The APA predicts a healthy increase in revenue for 2001 to approximately \$650 million.

“The fireworks industry has witnessed a great increase in enthusiasm for celebrating all sorts of occasions with fireworks and has responded with an enhanced resolve to ensure that these devices are manufactured, distributed and used in a safe manner,” said Heckman. “It is of

paramount importance to the industry and its members to ensure that no one gets hurt by legal fireworks.”

About the American Pyrotechnics Association

The APA is the leading trade association of the fireworks industry. The APA supports and promotes safety standards for all aspects of fireworks. The APA has a diverse membership including regulated and licensed manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, importers and suppliers of fireworks, and professional display firms. Additional information about the fireworks industry, facts & figures, history of fireworks, and state laws, can be found on APA’s web site at www.americanpyro.com

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