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American Pyrotechnics Association Urges Fireworks Safety and Early Purchasing Ahead of July 4th

Southport, NC – June 25, 2025 – The American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) is encouraging families to celebrate safely this Independence Day and to shop early for fireworks, as the recent uncertainty surrounding tariffs and global supply could impact both availability and pricing this holiday season.

On the safety front, the industry is stressing the importance of taking proper steps to protect against unintended fires as a key focus area for this season’s consumer awareness campaign, particularly in regions facing dry conditions and heightened wildfire risk. The APA is reminding consumers that even legal fireworks can be dangerous if misused or ignited in unsafe environments.

“With dry conditions and wildfire risks increasing in parts of the country, it’s critical that families take extra care when using fireworks,” said Heckman. “That means never lighting fireworks near dry grass or vegetation, always having a bucket of water or hose nearby, soaking used fireworks before disposal, and avoiding use during high wind conditions. Simple steps like these can help prevent accidental fires and protect both people and property during the holiday season.”

To help reduce preventable injuries, the APA Safety and Education Foundation has released a new animated video series titled “*Explosive Mistakes: Don’t Be That Guy*,” available at <https://www.celebratesafely.org/july-4-safety-videos>. The short videos highlight safe handling, correct setup procedures, and common mistakes consumers often make—particularly with reloadable fireworks—that can result in severe injury or fire.

“These new videos not only show how to use fireworks properly but also point out some common hazards that can lead to injuries or fires,” said Heckman. “We encourage everyone to watch before celebrating and follow all local safety guidelines.”

The Foundation will be sharing the series widely on social media throughout the July 4th holiday season. Other key safety tips from APA include:

- Only use legal consumer fireworks and follow local laws.
- Always have a water source nearby.
- Never relight malfunctioning fireworks—soak and dispose of them properly.

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- Keep spectators at a safe distance.
- Never allow children to handle fireworks, even sparklers.
- Secure pets indoors to reduce stress or injury during fireworks use.

APA also continues to advocate for federal tariff relief, noting that 99% of consumer fireworks are imported from China and that small, family-run businesses rely on the July 4th season to sustain their operations. Tariffs are compounding existing cost pressures and could affect future access to affordable fireworks, especially leading up to America's 250th anniversary in 2026.

"With strong demand and a 30% tariff still impacting imported fireworks, we're encouraging families to plan ahead," said Julie L. Heckman, Executive Director of the APA. "Shopping early and setting a budget can help ensure you get the products you want and avoid the risk of limited selection closer to the holiday weekend."

Heckman went on to add in relation to the tariffs impacting industry, "Fireworks are about community, tradition, and safe celebration," said Heckman. "With early preparation and a focus on safety, we can ensure everyone enjoys the holiday responsibly."

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, suppliers, and professional display fireworks companies. Additional information about the fireworks industry, facts & figures, state laws, and safety tips can be found on APA's website at <http://www.americanpyro.com>.

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