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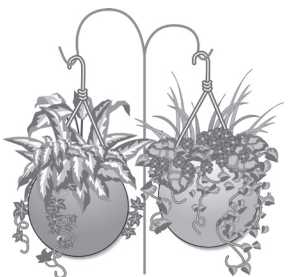


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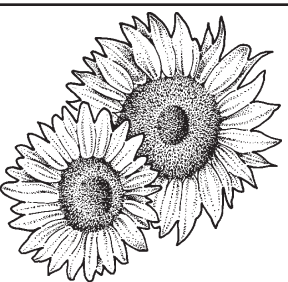
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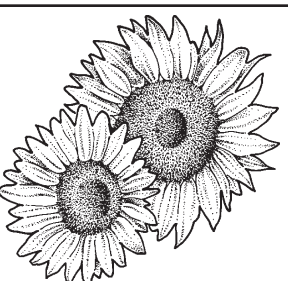
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READ ALL ABOUT IT!



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Pictures of fireworks from the 2010 Freedom Fest taken last year. Goodland native Joe Diaz designs the display. There will be carnival rides, live entertainment, food vendors and a watermelon feed along with fireworks for the coming July 4th celebration.
Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Have fun and be safe using fireworks

Using consumer fireworks on our nation's birthday is as traditional as cookouts and parades. And it is equally safe if a few common sense rules are followed, says Dr. John Steinberg, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council on Fireworks Safety. But he notes, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 5,900 fireworks related injuries during the Fourth of July season in 2009. These injuries would not have occurred if there had been close adult supervision and if some basic safety steps had been taken. The council offers these common sense fireworks tips in the hopes that injuries to consumers can be greatly reduced this season:

- Parents and caretakers should always closely supervise teens if they are using fireworks.
- Parents should not allow young children to handle or use fireworks.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors.
- Always have water ready if you are shooting fireworks.
- Know your fireworks. Read the caution label before igniting.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not

legal where you live, do not use them.

- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses whenever using fireworks.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Soak spent fireworks with water before placing them in an outdoor garbage can.
- Avoid using homemade fireworks or illegal explosives: They can kill you!
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.

Consumers should be fireworks smart, before, during and after their fireworks display.

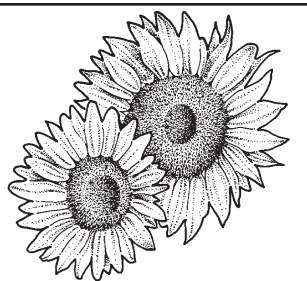
Before choose an open area away from spectators, homes and buildings and dry vegetation. Use a garden hose to wet down the area before firing. During the display as each device burns out, soak it using a hose or bucket of water. Afterwards place all used items in a covered, fireproof container and leave it outside and away from homes and buildings.

Remember the following special fireworks safety tips for sparklers:

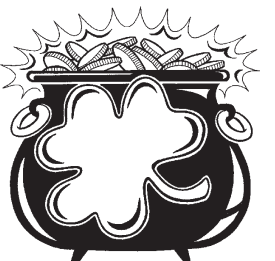
- Children under the age of 12 should not use sparklers without ver close adult supervision.
- Always remain standing while using sparklers.
- Never hold a child in your arms while using sparklers.
- Never hold or light, more than one sparkler at a time.
- Sparklers and bare feet can be a painful combination. Always wear closed-toe shoes when using sparklers.
- Sparkler wire and stick remain hot long after the flame has gone out. Be sure to drop the spent sparkler directly in a bucket of water.
- Never hand a lighted sparkler to another person. Give them the unlit sparkler and then light it.
- Always stand at least six feet from another person while using sparklers.
- Never throw sparklers.
- Show children how to hold sparklers away from their body and at arm's length.
- Teach children not to wave sparklers, especially wooden stick sparklers or run while holding sparklers.



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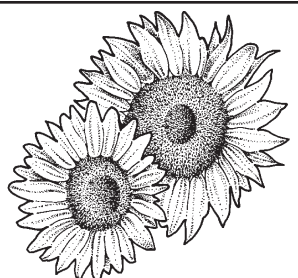
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