



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



Law Enforcement to Crack Down on Illegal Fireworks Over 4th of July Holiday Period

June 27, 2008

FLINT -- At a press conference this morning, Prosecutor Leyton said that local and State law enforcement authorities will be cracking down on illegal fireworks during the 4th of July holiday period.

"We're not here to rain on anyone's 4th of July holiday parade," said Prosecutor Leyton as he explained the reason for the heightened enforcement activities. "Our number one concern is for public safety."



Prosecutor Leyton cited national statistics that show an annual average of 10,000 injuries across the country from fireworks accidents and more than 30,000 fires are started from errant fireworks. The largest group of those injured fall in the 10-15 year-old age range.

"Illegal fireworks should not be used by anyone and all legal fireworks should be handled with extreme caution" said Prosecutor Leyton. "Very young children should not be allowed to handle any type of fireworks devices and older children should be closely supervised in order to prevent injuries."

Prosecutor Leyton was joined by Lt. Rick Arnold, Post Commander for the Michigan State Police in Flint; Chief Rick Aro of the City of Fenton Police and current head of the Genesee County Chiefs of Police Association; and Sgt. Dave Bigelow of the City of Flint Police Department.

"We will be investigating any complaints we receive from residents concerning illegal fireworks and we will issue tickets and pursue prosecution," said Chief Aro. He also noted that his agency and others will be monitoring local vendors to ensure that the devices they are selling are legal.

Prosecutor Leyton said that possession or use of illegal fireworks is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

"If the police bring us cases involving illegal fireworks, we will prosecute," he said.

More information on what constitutes legal and illegal fireworks can be found here: [Michigan Fireworks Laws](#)

To learn more about fireworks safety, [click here.](#)