



Greg Champagne
Sheriff

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department
Special Services Division

220 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Louisiana 70057
Voice (985) 783-1355 • Fax (985) 783-1195

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For additional information contact Captain Patrick Yoes.

DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS DURING NEW YEAR HOLIDAY LIMITED TO CERTAIN HOURS IN ST. CHARLES PARISH

It is now legal to shoot fireworks in St. Charles Parish during limited hours over the New Year's and July 4th holidays because of changes in the law approved by the parish government last year.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to complaints about fireworks use outside those hours as well as in areas deemed unsuitable for them to be in.

According to St. Charles Parish Council Ordinance, it is allowable to discharge fireworks ONLY during the following time periods during the New Year Holiday:

December 31 from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 A.M. on January 1st.
January 1st, from 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M.

Anyone found to be discharging fireworks outside of these time frames will be cited.

"The St. Charles Parish Council in 2013 responded to many citizens' request for a limited time to celebrate responsibly. I urge citizens to respect the rights of their neighbors and the law by confining the discharge of fireworks to these hours only. Another common complaint is the trash and debris left on public streets following the celebration. If you use fireworks, please clean up after yourselves. Abuse of this privilege could easily result in the council repealing the limited use of fireworks," said Sheriff Greg Champagne.

It remains illegal to ignite fireworks within 1,000 feet of a gas station or industrial facility, or any other location named in the ordinance.

However, those who use fireworks should use them in a responsible manner to ensure the safety of users and bystanders. Sheriff Greg Champagne urges those who use

fireworks to be mindful of safety precautions recommended by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Some parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.