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CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER JULY 2017



The 4th of July is quickly approaching, and many of us have outdoor plans such as cook outs, pool parties, and fireworks shows. We get a lot of fireworks questions. Here is what is now legal in the Commonwealth. Aside from the usual sparklers, cone fountains, spinners, and smoke bombs, as of 2011, fireworks (including those that explode or are launched into the air) are legal to purchase in the state of Kentucky.

Kentucky state law no longer prohibits “1.4 consumer fireworks” as of 2011. This classification includes items such as Roman candles, firecrackers, and bottle rockets. But a 200 foot distance between the fireworks and another person, house, or vehicle is required. Remember, 200 ft is quite a lot. Know your area before planning your show, and also check with local ordinances to see if they match those of the state.

Safety Tips

- Beware of what is around. Only use fireworks outdoors and do not shoot fireworks close to buildings, cars or anything else around that could possibly catch fire. 200 feet RULE.
- Fireworks should only be set off by SOBER adults. Mixing alcohol and fireworks spells disaster. If there are kids around, be sure to instruct them to stay away from the fireworks and if they are interested in sparklers, provide adult supervision.
- Keep everyone away from the fireworks, not just children. Folks, PLEASE make arrangements to keep your animals safe and CONTAINED. It is sad to see all of the lost animal posts after firework displays. Remember that they are terrified of things that go “boom.”
- Do not attempt to re-light a firework. If the display was a dud, leave it be. After waiting for it to cool—experts recommend 20 minutes—soak the “dud” firework in a bucket of water.
- In fact, be sure to douse all firework remains. Do not throw them away; soak them in water to be sure they are no longer hot or a threat.
- Read and follow directions. DO NOT try to alter or combine fireworks. Keep a bucket of water, a fire extinguisher, or working water hose (or all three) nearby. Wear safety glasses and never lean over a firework while lighting it.

Let's all have a safe and happy national holiday!

Scammers and Scoundrels



As if we didn't have enough to worry about, now there is a scam involving cell phone accounts. Known as cell-phone account fraud, it's when a phony cell-phone account is issued in your name and used to gain access to your bank account, or open new credit card accounts. According to Consumer Reports, cell-phone account fraud is growing rapidly. "In 2018 the number of victims of fraudulent mobile-phone accounts surged 78 percent from a year earlier, to about 680,000..."

"The most important step you can take is to put a freeze on the credit information that's used to open a cell-phone account. This information doesn't come from the big credit rating agencies like Equifax but from little-known companies such as the National Consumer Telecommunications and Utilities Exchange (NCTUE), a credit reporting agency fed by data supplied by phone, pay-TV companies, and utility service providers."

There are three ways to freeze your NCTUE information: online, by telephone (866-349-5355), and by mail (NCTUE Security Freeze, P.O. Box 105561, Atlanta, GA 30348). You can also opt out of data collection or setup NCTUE fraud alerts.

It is also recommended that you use a PIN for your cell-phone account to prevent criminals from transferring your phone number to a new account without your knowledge. Most phone carriers make this an optional feature, so you will have to insure that you get it done. With social media and all the data collection going on, it has become super simple for scammers to get plenty of information about you in order to open up fraudulent accounts in your name. There has never been a time in history when it has been so important to be vigilant.

Protect your Stuff

Once again I am sounding the alarm.

LOCK YOUR CARS AFTER REMOVING ALL ITEMS OF VALUE FROM INSIDE THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT. Criminals do not break windows unless they see something inside that they want. They will move on to some other opportunity. Remove opportunity and you will have broken the crime triangle. Take back your power. You are not helpless against crime, you can make a difference.

Areas of Concern

Traffic Complaint - Brookhill Road

Theft (landscaping equipment) - Plantside Drive

Emergency call 911

To report a crime call (502) 267-0503

*Any questions concerning Block Watch programs,
contact Community Resource Officer Felicia Burba
at the Jeffersontown Police Department
(502) 267-0505*

Visit our website : www.jeffersontown.gov