



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
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**RUNDOWN**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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## Floridians,

As we celebrate this Independence Day, I'm encouraging all Floridians to ensure extra precaution is taken when using fireworks to protect yourself and your loved ones. It's especially important this year to offer this safety reminder as more and more people will be celebrating Fourth of July in the comfort of their own home, due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Every year, it is estimated that fireworks start approximately **19,500** fires and cause around **\$105 million** in direct property damage nationwide. It is extremely important for Floridians to be cognizant of the fire hazards associated fireworks and always use the six simple safety tips below.

This past Tuesday marked three years since I became your CFO and every day I'm honored to wake up and serve the people of the great state of Florida. I wish you and your family a healthy and happy Fourth of July weekend and may God Bless America!

### **Six Fireworks Safety Tips**

1. Light one firework/sparkler at a time and never relight a dud – If too many fireworks are lit at one time, it can cause confusion about which ones are active, leading to possible injury or fire. Duds can malfunction and explode improperly if you try to relight them. It is best to douse them with water to ensure they are fully extinguished.
2. Beware of allowing young children to play with sparklers – Fireworks or sparklers can reach [temperatures of more than 1200 degrees](#), which can cause third degree burns. For a fun and flame-free way to light up the night, consider picking up a few glow sticks for young kids to play with.
3. Be mindful of your neighbors and pets – It's important to be cognizant of your neighbors and surroundings when using fireworks. Some individuals in your community may suffer from PTSD including first responders and veterans, and fireworks could cause their symptoms to flare-up. Also, remember to keep pets indoors as they may be distressed when fireworks are launched, increasing the risk they will run loose or get injured. Pets should be kept inside and as far away as possible from fireworks.

4. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby – Be careful of how you dispose of fireworks and sparklers and make sure you always have a fire extinguisher or water hose on hand. Once fireworks have stopped working, they are still extremely hot and need to be cooled off with water or a fire extinguisher so they can be disposed of properly.
5. Only purchase approved sparklers – Per Florida Statute, the State Fire Marshal’s Office maintains an annual [list of approved sparklers](#) that have been tested and found to meet the requirements for sparklers. Sparklers should only be used under close adult supervision.
6. Consider attending a professional fireworks show – The best opportunity to protect yourself and your family from fireworks injuries is to let a trained professional handle the fireworks. Professional fireworks shows may be impacted by COVID-19 guidelines. Be sure to check with local authorities for availability and safety recommendations in your area.

Sincerely,



*Jimmy Patronis*  
Chief Financial Officer  
State of Florida

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