

WEEKLY SAFETY TIP – 6/28/10 – IDEAS TO CELEBRATE THE 4TH

It's almost the 4th of July – the national birthday party for the United States of America. In honor of Independence Day, we ask that you celebrate with SCM by thanking a member of our US military and enjoy a professional fireworks display. The US Military are professionals who continue to work to ensure our freedom. And professional pyrotechnic engineers work to ensure we can celebrate that freedom through fireworks displays.

While we might have differing opinions about war, we all appreciate the time, efforts and sacrifice of the US military. If you don't know anyone in the military that you can thank personally, you can send a note of thanks through the US Army website, linked here: Thank a soldier: <http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/>

Many of us celebrate by flying the US Flag on holidays, whether at our work place or at home. Did you know that there are regulations about how the flag should be flown? You can read about the flag and the regulations through this link: Flags: http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/misc/ourflag/flaglaws1.htm

Or you might celebrate the holiday by spending the day outdoors, barbecuing and picnicking. And you might like to complete the day with some fireworks. Even though what is often categorized as “legal” fireworks are sold in some areas of the US, at SCM, we would discourage you from handing your children these potentially dangerous explosive devices, and encourage you to attend a fireworks display in your local area.

SCM joins with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, who states that “Children should never be allowed to play with or ignite fireworks.” That statement was about not “illegal” fireworks; it included ALL fireworks. But don't take our word for it, go to the CPSC website to see demonstration videos about fireworks. Here's a link to make it easier for you: <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/fireworks/index.html>.

If you are reading this safety tip, you probably are a professional that cares about safety. At work, you ensure that engineering controls are in place, as well as work rules. You don't let your staff work without proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Why would you be less than professional in celebrating the 4th of July? Fireworks are classed as explosives by the Department of Transportation. Explosives are best handled by those with the proper engineering controls, work rules, training and PPE. Leave the display to the professionals, sit back, and enjoy the show!

If you'd like some general information about Independence Day, such as what the fireworks regulations are for your state, and much more, visit the USA.Gov site, linked here: http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Independence_Day.shtml

Ready for the quarterly newsletter, which includes Paul Gantt's assessment of the recent “What's Wrong In This Picture”? Stay tuned, it will be out later this week.