

WEEKLY SAFETY TIP - 7/1/11 - WHAT'S WRONG IN THESE PICTURES?



Yes, you are looking at 2 pictures today, Friday, July 1, 2011. The first picture is a smoking watermelon. Odd, unusual, a waste of good fruit did you say? The second picture is a group of firefighters standing around a wet spot on the pavement. You might be able to detect some pink splatter on the ground.

We aren't going to make you wait for this explanation. We are going to tell you now that this is a recreation of an experiment that Paul Gantt of SCM conducted while with the Campbell (CA) Fire Department. In picture 1, the watermelon is smoking because it has an M80 stuck in the top. And as you might imagine, picture 2 is what the M80 did to the watermelon.

The analogy is a little obvious, but in light of the impending holiday, we thought it appropriate. Fireworks, firecrackers, sparklers, M80's – these are classified as explosives by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and are better left to pyrotechnical experts. According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2009, 8,800 fireworks related injuries were treated in US hospitals. We aren't talking about use of illegal fireworks. Some of those injuries were caused by what is often referred to as "safe and sane" fireworks.

If you want more demonstrations as to the serious effects of fireworks, here's a link to 3 dramatic videos on the NFPA website.

http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=297&order_src=C246&cookie_test=1.

We are also going to link them on our facebook page.

Please have a safe and sane 4th of July. Enjoy picnics and barbeques with family and friends. Go watch a professional fireworks display and celebrate the birth of our great nation. Leave fireworks in the hands of professionals.

The SCM office will be closed on Monday July 4th. Have a safe holiday.

Happy Birthday USA.