

MINOOKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Smoke Signals

www.minookafire.com



The dedicated members of the Minooka Fire Protection District strive to provide reliable emergency services, public education and awareness for our customers in a cost effective and responsible manner.



'Bee' Safe from Bites and Stings



Bugs (including mosquitoes, ticks, and some flies) can spread diseases (including Zika, dengue, and Lyme disease), many of which cannot be prevented or treated with a vaccine or medicine. Reduce your risk by taking steps to prevent bug bites.

- **Don't apply perfumes** and avoid the use of scented soaps. The sweet scents of soaps and perfumes attract some insects.
- **Stay away from stagnant water and heavily wooded areas.** Insects, especially mosquitoes, congregate around pools of water. Deer ticks are more likely to be in areas with lots of trees and brush.
- **Avoid wearing bright clothing.** Bright flowery prints also attract insects, including honey bees and hornets.
- **Dress appropriately.** If you plan to be in a wooded or grassy area, pants and long sleeves are best. This is a great way to limit your skin exposure.
- **Know the signs of having a potentially dangerous anaphylactic (rapidly progressing allergic) reaction to a bite.** These reactions are most commonly associated with stings by bees, wasps, or hornets. Hives, swelling (of the face, eyes, tongue, and lips), throat tightness, difficulty breathing, vomiting or feeling faint/lightheaded are all signs of potentially dangerous anaphylaxis and you should call 9-1-1.
- **Protect your pets, too.** Your four-legged family members can also get diseases from insects. Make sure to bring and use your pet's flea and tick repellants.
- **Resist walking barefoot in the grass.** Bees can often be on the ground and this will help you avoid being stung. It's also wise to avoid perfumes and bright colors, as these may attract bees.

Leave the Fireworks to the Professionals



The Minooka Fire Protection District, Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, and the National Fire Protection Association recommend that people attend a professional fireworks display on July 4th to ensure a safe holiday. People interested in shooting fireworks, either privately or as a professional display, need to be aware of Illinois' fireworks regulations.

It's important to note that several well-known types of fireworks, such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, sky lanterns, and Roman candles, are not allowed in Illinois. Novelty fireworks, such as snakes, sparklers, and party-poppers are not regulated by the state, although municipalities have the authority to enact an ordinance prohibiting the sale and use of sparklers on public property. Visit the Village of Minooka website (www.minooka.com) to view the Fireworks Ordinance 8-2-7.

While legal, sparklers present a serious danger because of the high temperature of the wire during and after its use. Sparklers burn at temperatures of up to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit (982 degrees Celsius) and remain extremely hot long after the sparks have stopped. Many children are injured each year by sparklers. Children playing with novelty fireworks must be closely supervised by adults to prevent injury.

Picture courtesy of Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, www.ifsa.org

www.minookafire.com

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @minookafire