

NEWS RELEASE: June 30, 2010

Be safe and pick up your trash when using fireworks

The Greene County Commission urges residents to be respectful of their neighbors and neighbors' property and to pick up their trash when using fireworks this holiday season.

Every July, the Greene County Highway Department spends several days collecting fireworks debris from county roadways, filling several dump trucks.

"It's not only an expense for county taxpayers to clean it all up, it's a disruption for Highway Department road crews, who, during a very busy part of the year, are pulled off their maintenance and construction duties to clean up after others," said Dan Smith, Greene County Highway Administrator.

While use of fireworks is not allowed within Springfield and is limited in other municipalities, state law (RSMo. 320.121) prohibits Greene County from regulating the discharge of fireworks in the unincorporated portions of the county.

Greene County advises following these fireworks safety tips:

- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place, away from where other fireworks are being used.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Always have a responsible adult present.
- Do not give fireworks or sparklers to small children.
- Keep small children and pets indoors or at a safe distance from fireworks displays.
- Do not obstruct traffic on public roadways.
- Do not use fireworks near structures, hay bales or livestock.
- Keep a bucket of water handy for emergencies and for dousing used fireworks, sprinklers and duds.
- Pick up your trash.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office encourages residents concerned about peace disturbances, trespassers or littering to obtain offenders' names or license plate numbers before contacting the sheriff's department.

For more information, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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