

## Tips for Launch Site Placement for Fireworks Displays

Tips for launch site placement for fireworks displays are shown below. Use these tips as a guide whenever your community is considering potential launch sites for fireworks displays.

- Whenever possible, locate the launch site on water (for example, on a barge or pier). Locating the launch site on water enables personnel to abandon the site easily if an accident occurs and the pyrotechnic supply ignites.
- Erect a barrier between the crowd and the launch site to protect the crowd if fireworks tip over after ignition, resulting in a lateral, rather than a vertical, projection.
- Do **not** allow fireworks to be projected over the heads of spectators because debris is often hot and can injure spectators if it falls into their eyes or onto their heads.
- Anticipate potential respiratory difficulties, resulting from smoke from the display.
- If launching over water, do **not** allow fireworks to be projected over flammable trees, bush areas, buildings, or boats.
- Require unused fireworks to be stored in covered metal containers to prevent accidental ignition, either by staff or by descending hot particles from previously ignited fireworks.
- Require fire equipment, including fire extinguishers and trained firefighters to be immediately available at the launch site.
- Require all personnel who deploy or ignite fireworks to wear protective clothing, including face shields, helmets, and heavy gloves.
- After the event, personnel should inspect the launch site carefully to ensure that no incipient or rekindled fires are possible. All used fireworks should be soaked in water and removed from the site, along with any securing spikes, wires, or other potentially hazardous objects.

## **Tips for Addressing Problems at Pre-Teen and Early Teen Events**

Tips for addressing potential problems at pre-teen and early teen events are listed below. Use these tips as a guide whenever your community is considering an event for those age groups.

- Create a “Parents’ Oasis” adjacent to the venue where parents can wait during the concert. Coffee, soft drinks, snacks, and newspapers can be available to help parents pass the time while waiting for the event to conclude. The additional cost and effort devoted to providing a Parents’ Oasis are more than offset by the reduction in efforts needed to deal with young audiences at the conclusion of the event.
- Provide information booths with access to the public address system to enable clearly identified event staff to assist lost children and their parents.
- Develop contingency plans for the “worst case”—the occurrence of a major incident exacerbated by the problems of parents attempting to gain access to the area to reunite with their children—or trying to find out where their injured children have been taken.