



**July 2017**

### WSSCA Newsletter

The "news you can use" periodical for Wisconsin's school safety and security professionals



*Note: Independence Day celebrations are upon us, and it's a time for many of us to enjoy the company of family and friends in the outdoors with boating, picnics, barbecues, and yes, fireworks. Commercial displays in our communities are always a treat, and many of us like to supplement our, "Happy Birthday USA" celebration with our own displays and demonstrations. Sadly, thousands of Americans are injured each year by fireworks. I am reprinting an article from the National Safety Council, and ask that if you planning your own July 4th noise-fest, to give it a read and consider safety your top priority.  
Ed*

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## Best to Leave Fireworks to the Experts

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks displays. But along with all the festivities are plenty of visits to emergency rooms – especially during July.

In 2015, [11 people died and about 11,500 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment](#) after fireworks-related incidents, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, thousands were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Fireworks also are responsible for thousands of fires each year. The [National Fire Protection Association](#) reports that in 2013, fireworks caused about 1,400 structure fires, 200 vehicle fires and 14,000 other fires.

The National Safety Council advises everyone to stay away from all consumer fireworks and to only enjoy fireworks at a public display conducted by seasoned professionals.

Following are some fireworks that are legal for consumers to purchase and use in some states. But just

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because they are legal doesn't mean they're safe. [Check out this video by the NFPA.](#)

### **Sparklers**

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but they are a lot more dangerous than most people think. Parents don't realize they burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and many children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet.

### **Bottle Rockets**

These small rockets are attached to a stick, lit by a fuse and typically fired from a bottle. Teens have been known to have bottle rocket wars, firing them at one another and causing chest, head and eye injuries.

Physicians at Vanderbilt Eye Institute at Vanderbilt University Medical Center have seen so many eye injuries caused by bottle rockets they [conducted a study they hope will lead to better education and "legislative enhancements" on fireworks safety.](#)

"The majority of the children (in the study) ended up with reduced vision, and probably half of those were deemed legally blind," said Dr. Franco Recchia, associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at Vanderbilt.

### **Firecrackers**

Firecrackers are designed to explode on the ground. They are often linked together by one long fuse and explode in a series. They are designed to be very noisy, but they also can cause burns and other serious injuries.

### **Roman Candles**

Roman candles eject multiple exploding shells from a tube the user holds in his or her hand. There have been numerous reports of [children losing fingers](#), severe burns and other injuries, which are sometimes caused when the device gets jammed.

### **Two Words About M-class Fireworks**

Just don't.

Executive Director  
Edward L. Dorff  
Green Bay

You hear them go off every year: M-80s, M-100s, even M-250s. The unmistakable explosions associated with these devices can rattle the windows of homes for blocks. They are produced illegally and without quality control, have short fuses and cause hundreds of extremely severe injuries each year.

### **If They're Legal**

If fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the show. Click [here](#) to learn more from the National Safety Council.



*Note: We are learning about a new tick-borne virus that is making its presence known in Wisconsin. Most of us who regularly spend time outdoors are well aware of the dangers of Lyme disease, and take precautions. Here's some timely information from our State Department of Health. Ed*

## Powassan (POWV) Virus Infection

Powassan virus (POWV) infection is a rare tickborne arbovirus infection, transmitted by the bite of infected deer/blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), the same tick that causes other tickborne diseases in Wisconsin, including Lyme disease. POWV is the only tickborne virus that is part of the arbovirus group (including West Nile virus) occurring in Wisconsin and other parts of North America (Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Canada). The presence of POWV has been documented in several tick species (*Ixodes* spp., *Dermacentor andersoni*) and small and medium-sized mammal species (rodents, woodchucks, and skunks). The first case of Powassan identified in Wisconsin was in 2003.

People who are infected with POWV may experience a variety of symptoms, from mild illnesses to life-threatening complications; some people may not have any symptoms. Symptoms of illness usually begin 7-14 days (range 8-34 days) after being exposed to an infected tick bite. Signs and symptoms include acute onset of fever, muscle weakness, confusion, headache, nausea, vomiting, and stiff neck. Severe illness can include confusion, paralysis, speech difficulties, memory loss, and meningoencephalitis (inflammation of the brain and meninges).

For more information on tick-borne diseases, click [here](#).

### School Safety Coordinators:

### Is Your School Emergency Operations Plan Up-to-Date?



*Note: By now, all 424 School Districts in Wisconsin are likely complied with Wisconsin's 2010 Act 309 which, among other things, required every district to develop a school safety plan by the end of May 2013. Something that has been overlooked however, is the requirement that each district must review their plan at least once every three years following the enactment of that plan. See 118.07 (4) (d) below.*

*If you are charged with overseeing your district's plan, take some time this summer to make sure it has met the three year review requirement, and be sure to document that review on the cover or title page of your plan. Ed.*



**118.07 Health and safety requirements.**

**(4)**

**(a)**

1. Each school board and the governing body of each private school shall have in effect a school safety plan for each public or private school in the school district within 3 years of May 27, 2010.

2. If a school district is created or a public or private school opens after May 27, 2010, the school board or governing body of the private school shall have in effect a school safety plan for each public or private school within 3 years of its creation or opening.

**(b)** A school safety plan shall be created with the active participation of appropriate parties, as specified by the school board or governing body of the private school. The appropriate parties may include local law enforcement officers, fire fighters, school administrators, teachers, pupil services professionals, as defined in s. [118.257 \(1\) \(c\)](#), and mental health professionals. A school safety plan shall include general guidelines specifying procedures for emergency prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The plan shall also specify the process for reviewing the methods for conducting drills required to comply with the plan.

**(c)** The school board or governing body of the private school shall determine which persons are required to receive school safety plan training and the frequency of the training. The training shall be based upon the school district's or private school's prioritized needs, risks, and vulnerabilities.

(d) Each school board and the governing body of each private school shall review the school safety plan at least once every 3 years after the plan goes into effect.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### WSSCA's 50th Anniversary Conference and Expo

February 26 - 27, 2018

Early registration is now open for WSSCA  
members!



*Vendor registration will open soon. We'll let you know once we have it open.*

We anticipate our 2018 conference to sell out! Make sure to reserve your seat.



## Check out our keynote speaker!

Through the generosity of WSSCA Member and Friend, Dave Trudeau of TruArmor LLC, our conference keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. Dave is a well known national renown speaker. He is well known to many who are tasked with safety and security.

Click [here](#) to read more about Dave.



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#### Quotes of the Month

“The United States is the only country with a known birthday. All the rest began they know not when, and grew into power, they know not how..... There is no ‘Republican,’ no, ‘Democrat,’ on the fourth of July; - all are Americans.” - James Gillespie Blaine. US Secretary of State, 1881, 1889-1892.

“There is nothing wrong with America that the faith, love of freedom, intelligence, and energy of her citizens cannot cure.”- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Borrowed Humor



School Safety Certification  
2017 Course Schedule

Modules	Course Titles	Dates	Location

1&6	Health and Safety Compliance Part A General Aspects of Crisis Management	October 25, 2017	Madison, WI
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