

Officials Remind You To Celebrate Safely

BY JAMES COOPER

For the Plain Talk

For more than 2,000 years, fireworks have been used to celebrate; the bigger the event, the bigger the display.

In that time, science has added colors, shapes, and sounds to enhance the viewing experience. As with all explosives, great power and great responsibility go hand in hand.

All proverbs aside, safety while handling fireworks needs to be of paramount importance, if an uninterrupted celebration of the United States Independence is to occur.

As familiar fireworks tents begin to spring up around the Vermillion community, those considering lighting off a few are faced with questions such as, "Where can I light fireworks in town?", "What precautions should I be taking?", and "Who might I contact in the event of something going wrong?"

Thankfully, the answers are simple and easily accessible through the Vermillion Fire Department.

Fire Chief Shannon Draper has been in the fire service for over twenty-five years and has been Chief in Vermillion for nearly three. In

that time, he has been there to help serve and protect the community from going up in flames by educating the public about fire safety and prevention.

On the Vermillion Fire Department website, there is a wealth of information about firework safety, just in time for the July 4th festivities.

City ordinance 92.07: Fireworks Prohibited without Permit states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to shoot, discharge, or explode, or cause to be shot, or discharged, or explode any firecracker, sky rocket, blank cartridges, fireworks, or other explosives used for fireworks or fire displays in the city limits."

This seemingly long piece of verbiage boils down to one simple instruction for those wishing to enjoy personal fireworks; to use fireworks, you need a permit.



Chief Draper explains that, "There's a permit process. It's not a really difficult process."

This process can be completed through the Fire Department website.

For those who wish to remain in town and still see fireworks, there is a city display that takes place beginning at dusk in Barstow Park. There will be several family activities throughout the day, even including a vehicle rescue demonstration by the fire department beginning at 3 p.m..

If you would rather enjoy your own fireworks display outside city limits, there are several safety tips and tricks that are helpful in making doubly sure that the holiday stays safe and enjoyable.

When choosing fireworks to light, it is important to understand that even sparklers can be dangerous.

A sparkler burns at over 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause third degree burns.

Also, even if a firework is a 'dud', it is still a live explosive, so staying away from it is a good idea.

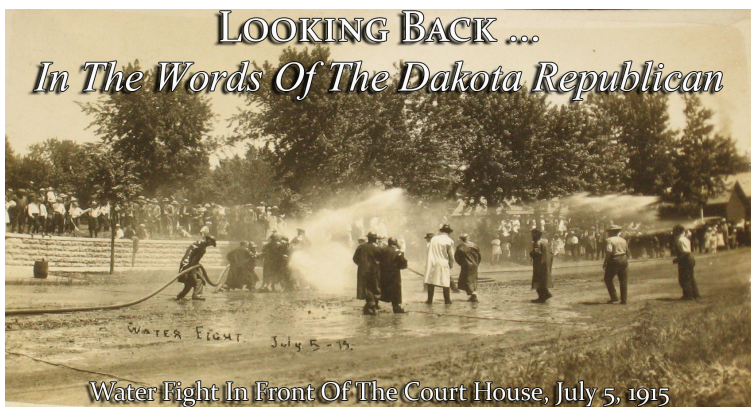
Finally, it goes without saying that children must always be supervised around fireworks.

While fireworks related injuries have declined over the past decade, according to a 2011 National Fire Protection Association there were still 9,600 fireworks related injuries reported, as well as 17,800 reported fires caused by improper fireworks use and disposal.

If you plan to enjoy fireworks out in the country, it is very important to properly dispose of spent fireworks in order to keep fields and homes from catching fire.

Making sure spent fireworks are properly snuffed with water and disposed of in a closed receptacle will help keep this Independence Day a safe and happy one.

As Chief Draper says, "We just want everyone to have a safe holiday, and firework safety education is part of that."



LOOKING BACK ...
In The Words Of The Dakota Republican

Water Fight In Front Of The Court House, July 5, 1915

BIG CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

Thousands Of People Come To Vermillion On Monday To Celebrate On Nation's Birthday

DAKOTA REPUBLICAN - JULY 8, 1915

The weather was certainly kind to Vermillion for once when he held back the watering pot and allowed the roads to get good and provided one of the most ideal days of the season for the big celebration in this city on Monday of this week. The weather was everything that could be wished, and the result was that a record crowd sought the city for the purpose of celebrating.

To the members of the Vermillion band must be given the credit for the arranging of the celebration and the program of the day. They went at it earnestly, and their efforts were well rewarded. The crowd commenced to come early in the morning, and

by the time for the opening of the exercises there was a good index of what might be expected later in the day in the way of attendance.

A parade was formed at the Waldorf hotel, and headed by the Vermillion band, followed by the city fire department and a long string of automobiles, it paraded down Main street to the Congregational church. Here the band and the fire department rested, while the automobile procession took a trip over the east end of the city. They visited Ravine Hill, from which one of the finest views in this part of the state is to be seen. From there they went to the State University, around the grounds,

and came back and joined the fire department and band at the Congregational church. The procession then moved up Main street to a point in front of the court house where the fire department put on a novelty entertainment for the benefit of the visitors. There were ladder climbing contests and other numbers, but the most entertaining number on their program was the water fight which was waged between two companies of the department. It proved to be a good piece of work and was much enjoyed by all, even by those who participated in the eternal wetness of things.

From here the crowd went to Austin Park with their well-filled baskets and enjoyed the dinner hour on the community picnic plan. It gave a splendid opportunity for the city and country people to get together and visit, and it is needless to say that the most was made of the occasion.

Following the picnic dinner came the pre-arranged program at the park. The Vermillion band gave a short concert program. The pupils of Mrs. Clearwater's room in the city schools gave a splendid flag drill. Prof. Beatty, of Lincoln, Neb., who is in attendance at the summer school at the State University, delivered the address of the day. His address was in keeping with the occasion, and was much enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to hear it.

Following the exercises in the park, the crowd adjourned to the fair grounds where the sports of the day were to be pulled off. The first number on the program was the ball game between the Vermillion "has beens" and the Fairview "come backs." If anyone took the game seri-

ously, we want to get our lamps on him. It was, however, a good imitation of a baseball game such as was played many years ago before the national game came to be a science. With such oldtimers as Beckett, Egan, Collar, the Partridge boys, Kempker, Whittemore, Davenport, Herb Collins, Riley and Everett Maxwell, Anker, and other, all lined up for the sport that they enjoyed on the diamond years ago, it was impossible to find a dull moment in the whole five innings. The old timers went at it with all the vim of youth, and with the wrangling over decisions, utter disregard of the 1915 rules, and a few side plays, with John L. Jolley and E.B. Danforth alternately acting as the arbitration board, it was bound to be something classic, and classic it was. They played four innings and a half, when Sam Henry, who was helping keep score, announced that the score stood at 4 to 4, and then they decided to quit.

This game was followed by the game between Wakonda and Vermillion, which was probably much more to the liking of the latter day fans. It was a stubbornly fought contest throughout, and resulted in a victory for Vermillion by a score of 11 to 6.

The people in the grandstand were entertained by the motorcycle races between Arthur Varing of Volin, and Alfred Anderson, William Gillespie, and Howard Evenson of Vermillion. The race was won by Varing, with Gillespie second, Evenson third, and Anderson fourth. There were numerous foot races and other sports for the younger folks which were much enjoyed. A traveling vaudevillian was present and gave an exhibition of feats of strength and

balancing.

In the evening the band gave a short concert program in the park, followed by the bowery dance which lasted till the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Down at the city theatre, in connection with the moving picture program, the band had arranged for a few vaudeville members. Willford Learn rendered a flute solo in a splendid manner, and in response to the hearty applause which greeted him he played another excellent selection. A quintette of young ladies consisting of Olive Wilson, Hilda Hooper, Mabel Nelson, Ethel Cleland, and Murgery Collins, appeared in a vocal number, and were compelled to respond to the encore which followed with another selection. Eugene Schilling, Ralph Collins, Howard Peterson, and Lowell Alstrop of the city band, played "dot loodle Dutch band," and won a lot of applause with their part in the program. Messrs. Beckett & Richardson contributed to the success of the evening's entertainment by presenting Lew Fields, the famous Dutch comedian, in the five-reel movie feature of "Old Dutch," and also the second installment of "The Black Box."

The band boys are well pleased with the events of the day and the financial outcome. They made enough that day to pay their entire indebtedness and have a little balance left besides. They had expected to charge admission to the fair grounds, but some of the business men guaranteed the band a certain amount and the gates were thrown open and the crowd went in free. It was a big day for everybody, and everybody seemed to be satisfied.

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