



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Beach Fire Marshal Seeks Public's Help Regarding Illegal Fireworks Displays at North End and Croatan

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (July 16, 2025) – On the evening of July 4, 2025, members of the Virginia Beach Fire Marshal's Office conducted proactive patrols throughout the city in response to multiple reports of large, unauthorized fireworks displays. These incidents occurred in several neighborhoods and beachfront areas and posed serious threats to public safety.

Of particular concern was a significant illegal fireworks display near 45th Street in the North End around 9 p.m. Fire Marshals arrived to find an active show still in progress. Some fireworks had malfunctioned, discharging large-diameter mortars dangerously close to spectators, including children. No safety perimeter had been established, and the display presented a clear risk to bystanders.

Investigators collected the following materials at the scene:

- 96 two-inch mortar tubes
- 18 freestanding mortar tubes (2" diameter)
- 8 boxes of flaming balls (36 shots each)
- A remote-controlled firing system (app-operated)
- Additional assorted fireworks

Additional illegal displays were reported and investigated at 48th, 52nd, 54th, 58th, and 62nd Streets, as well as Croatan Beach. At many of these locations, Fire Marshals discovered active fires and unexploded fireworks abandoned near pedestrian areas. At 62nd Street, a large gathering of college-aged individuals left the beach littered with alcohol containers and debris.

These incidents illustrate the significant hazards posed by unpermitted fireworks. Unexploded devices left near fires present a serious danger—especially to children or unsuspecting bystanders.

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The Virginia Beach Fire Marshal's Office has launched an investigation and is seeking the public's assistance in identifying those responsible. If you witnessed these events or have any information that may aid the investigation, please contact the Virginia Beach Fire Prevention Bureau at **(757) 385-4228** or email **VBFMO@vbgov.com**.

To submit an anonymous tip, contact **Virginia Beach Crime Solvers** at **1-888-LOCK-U-UP (1-888-562-5887)**, visit <https://bit.ly/2XT3kPM>, or use the P3 Tips app on your smartphone.

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