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## **Local HSHS Hospitals Urge You to Play It Safe around Fireworks this Fourth of July**

(HIGHLAND, IL) –Though fireworks are exciting, festive and fun, HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospitals in Breese and Highland and HSHS Holy Family in Greenville want to remind community members that fireworks can also be dangerous. June 1 through July 4 is National Fireworks Safety Month, and it is important to understand firework safety and prevent serious injuries.

The National Safety Council recommends that it is best to leave fireworks to the experts. However, if you do decide to use fireworks this summer, the HSHS Hospitals in Breese, Greenville and Highland recommend the following firework safety tips to ensure you and your family have a safe yet fun Fourth of July this year:

- **Children should never play with fireworks.** Firecrackers, rockets and sparklers can be extremely dangerous if not used properly. If you give sparklers to kids, make sure they keep them outside and away from their faces, clothing and hair.
- **Store properly and buy legally.** Buy only legal fireworks and store them in a cool, dry place.
- **Don’t DIY.** Never try to make your own fireworks.
- **Be prepared.** Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose nearby.
- **Keep a distance.** Steer clear of others and never throw or point fireworks at someone.
- **Take precautions.** Do not hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket.

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- **Know your surroundings.** Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from bushes, leaves and other flammable substances. With high temperature weather during the summer months and lack of rainfall, the dangers of fireworks causing field and structure fires increases.
- **Quality, not quantity.** Light one firework at a time and never relight a dud.
- **Fireworks stay hot.** Do not allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event as they may still be hot.
- **Make sure the fire is out.** Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- **Know the law.** Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- **Be respectful of your neighbors.** Fireworks can cause severe stress for animals or, fear and anxiety for those who experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Informing your neighbors of any use of fireworks and respecting any concerns is recommended.

For more information about firework safety, visit the National Safety Council's website at <https://www.nsc.org> and search "Fireworks" at the top of the page.

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospitals in Breese and Highland, and HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville are part of the Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System, which also includes HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon and HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham.

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#### **About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System's (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O'Fallon, Shelbyville, and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, and Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is the founding institute. For more information about HSHS, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org). For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit [www.hospitalsisters.org](http://www.hospitalsisters.org).