

On behalf of the fireworks businesses in New York, as well as being a New York taxpayer; we are asking for your support in adopting the "Sparkling Device Law". We understand that there are a lot of pros, cons and personal opinions for the legalizations of fireworks. We are aware that there has been opposition raised by the New York States Association of Fire Chiefs (NYS AFC) and the Fireman's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) in the form of letters written to all the counties of New York State. We would like to address some of the misleading information that was included in that letter.

First, we would like to address how these fireworks are being labeled. NYSAFC and FASNY are labeling these items as "Dangerous fireworks" and that is simply not the case. Before a decision can be made the proper knowledge and definition of what is being sold needs to be understood. "Dangerous fireworks" means any fireworks capable of causing serious physical injury. The fireworks that this bill represents are considered "Safe and Sane" fireworks. Sparkling devices are known as "Safe and Sane" which means fireworks that do not fly or explode such as fountains, sparklers on a wood stick (not wire), wheels, smoke and snake items, strobes, ground spinners, novelty fireworks that do not travel, snappers and caps.

Next we would like to address the safety information provided by NYSAFC and FASNY. Though the information provided by NYSAFC is data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), it is incomplete and needs to be clarified. NFPA data shows that the U.S national fires caused by fireworks were 17, 800. What NYSAFC didn't state is that it is less than 1% of the U.S. national 1.3 million total fires reported in 2011. According to the latest data from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) total injuries reported from 2010-2012 totaled just over 1.4 million; and injuries from fireworks were just 100 of that total. The NYSDOH also reported that of those 100 injuries, 13 were to children from ages 1-14. To put that into perspective there were 6271 injuries for that same period for that same age group of children from pedal cycling; 482% more than fireworks. Even though that activity caused many more injuries we would never ban our children from riding bicycles. We do believe the safety of our children is very important. These items are going to be sold by New York State certified applicants who are insured and are at approved locations. When being certified for in store retailers you have to be cleared by the local fire prevention and building codes department, so safe storage will be mandated.

Now lets talk about the reality of revenue for our counties. Revenues have to be considered when making this decision for our county and the state. For example Maine just recently opened to the sale of sparkling devices and they anticipated a tax revenues of \$120,000 instead they reported \$380,000 more than 3 times the amount anticipated. With Maine having a population of just over 1.3 million and New York (excluding NYC) having almost 11 times that population we have tremendous revenue possibilities. With our state bordering Pennsylvania and too many New York citizens bringing them back to New York, why should we not capitalize on these tax dollars for our State and counties?

We do not mean any disrespect to the NYSAFC or the FASNY, but after speaking with several fire fighters (career and volunteer). One of whom is my husband who has been a volunteer firefighter for 21 years as well as several other family members and friends all having more than 15 plus years as fire fighters and paramedics, we all agree that this would have a positive affect on each county as well as the state. For too many years we have lost this tax revenue to our neighboring states it's time we thrive. We ask that you accept this into your local law.

Thank you for your time,

Tami Seaman

Incidence of All Unintentional Injuries Deaths, Hospitalizations, and Emergency Department† (ED) Visits New York State Residents, 2010-2012

	Deaths		Hospitalizations		ED Visits		
	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents	
Total	5,040	25.8	133,779	684.7	1,308,989	6,699.8	
Age Group	0<1	34	14.0	915	380.5	13,628	5,667.1
	1-4	37	3.9	2,919	308.6	102,416	10,825.2
	5-9	20	1.7	2,015	172.0	84,175	7,186.5
	10-14	35	2.9	2,251	188.7	101,911	8,543.5
	15-19	138	10.4	3,636	274.2	112,935	8,515.4
	20-24	313	22.1	4,538	319.8	116,513	8,210.7
	25-44	1,127	21.3	17,735	335.4	352,445	6,665.9
	45-64	1,442	27.4	31,204	593.1	274,623	5,220.2
	65+	1,892	70.2	68,566	2,545.5	150,344	5,581.4
Gender	Male	3,247	34.2	63,933	672.8	684,294	7,213.7
	Female	1,793	17.8	69,845	695.8	624,668	6,214.5
	Unknown	0	n/a	*	n/a	27	n/a
Percent Traumatic Brain Injury	29%		13%		10%		
Mean Charge per Hospitalization or ED Visit	n/a		\$38,588		\$2,246		
Mean One Year Total Hospitalization or ED Visit Charges	n/a		\$5,162,285,096		\$301,235,972		
Three Year Total Hospitalization or ED Visit Charges	n/a		\$15,486,855,287		\$903,707,915		
Average Length of Hospital Stay (Days)	n/a		6		n/a		

†The incidence of ED visits does not include patients who were subsequently admitted into the hospital
Rate = Frequency / Population * 100,000

*Data based on frequencies less than six not reported

Source: NYSDOH, Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention
www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/
SPARCS December 2013
Vital Statistics Death File February 2014

Incidence of Firework Injuries Hospitalizations and Emergency Department[†] (ED) Visits New York State Residents, 2010-2012

	Hospitalizations		ED Visits	
	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents
Total	20	0.1	80	0.4
Age Group	0<1	0	0	0.0
	1-4	0	2 (13)	0.2**
	5-9	0	5	0.5**
	10-14	*	6	0.5**
	15-19	4	12	0.9
	20-24	3	14	1.0
	25-44	7	27	0.5
	45-64	3	12	0.2
	65+	*	2	0.1**
Gender	Male	16	61	0.6
	Female	3	19	0.2
	Unknown	0	0	n/a

Percent Traumatic Brain Injury	5%**	1%**
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Mean Charge per Hospitalization or ED Visit	\$36,979	\$1,440
Mean One Year Total Hospitalization or ED Visit Charges	\$727,262	\$115,186
Three Year Total Hospitalization or ED Visit Charges	\$2,181,787	\$345,558

Average Length of Hospital Stay (Days)	5	n/a
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[†]The incidence of ED visits does not include patients who were subsequently admitted into the hospital

Rate = Frequency / Population * 100,000

*Data based on frequencies less than six not reported

**Caution: Rates calculated using frequencies of less than 20 are unstable

Source: NYSDOH, Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention
www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/
SPARCS December 2013

Incidence of Non-Motor Vehicle Traffic Pedal Cyclist Injuries Deaths, Hospitalizations, and Emergency Department[†] (ED) Visits New York State Residents, 2010-2012

	Deaths		Hospitalizations		ED Visits		
	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents	Mean Annual Frequency	Rate per 100,000 Residents	
Total	13	0.1	1,076	5.5	14,578	74.6	
Age Group	0<1	0	0	0.0	2	0.7**	
	1-4	0	19	2.0	649	68.6	
	5-9	0	73	6.2	2,231	190.5	
	10-14	0	134	11.2	3,165	265.4	
	15-19	*	*	96	7.3	1,828	137.8
	20-24	*	*	67	4.7	1,198	84.4
	25-44	4	0.1**	251	4.7	3,060	57.9
	45-64	5	0.1**	342	6.5	2,122	40.3
	65+	2	0.1**	95	3.5	323	12.0
Gender	Male	12	0.1	846	8.9	10,861	114.5
	Female	*	*	230	2.3	3,716	37.0
	Unknown	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a

Percent Traumatic Brain Injury	77%	28%	12%
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Mean Charge per Hospitalization or ED Visit	n/a	\$29,582	\$1,873
Mean One Year Total Hospitalization or ED Visit Charges	n/a	\$31,839,888	\$27,303,723
Three Year Total Hospitalization or ED Visit Charges	n/a	\$95,519,664	\$81,911,170

Average Length of Hospital Stay (Days)	n/a	4	n/a
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[†]The incidence of ED visits does not include patients who were subsequently admitted into the hospital

Rate = Frequency / Population * 100,000

*Data based on frequencies less than six not reported

**Caution: Rates calculated using frequencies of less than 20 are unstable

Source: NYSDOH, Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention
www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/
SPARCS December 2013
Vital Statistics Death File February 2014