



Department
of Commerce

NEWS RELEASE

John R. Kasich, Governor
Director

David Goodman,

Commerce

Department of

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 2011

Contact: Shane Cartmill 614-752-7179

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS CONFISCATE MORE THAN 5,000 POUNDS OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Acting on a tip, the Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM), the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Toledo Police Department, Toledo Fire Investigation Unit confiscated more than 5,000 pounds of homemade and consumer fireworks. The explosives were stored in violation of the Ohio Revised and Fire Codes on residential property at 1576 Claybourne Drive in Toledo.

Investigators confiscated consumer fireworks weighing more than 5,000 pounds that were displayed on shelving like a showroom inside the home. In addition to the fireworks, investigators also seized homemade fireworks and fireworks that had been modified.

Last week ATF agents received information that an individual was selling fireworks from the residence. After making an undercover fireworks purchase, a search warrant was obtained and police made entry into the home early Thursday morning. The fireworks were seized without incident.

“This amount of improperly stored explosive material in a residential neighborhood near a school is not only illegal, it is extremely dangerous to the residents, the neighbors and the first responders,” said State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers. “One spark could have caused tragedy in this neighborhood.”

Under Ohio law, only a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler located in Ohio can sell consumer, or 1.4g, fireworks. Anyone over the age of 18 may purchase these items from a licensed facility, but must sign a form certifying that the purchaser will transport the fireworks outside the state of Ohio within 48 hours. Consumer fireworks cannot be discharged legally in the State of Ohio.

Anyone who conducted business with this individual will be subject to investigation. The ongoing investigation is being conducted by the Division of State Fire Marshal, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and Toledo Police and Fire.

#

www.com.ohio.gov

Follow the State Fire Marshal on Twitter
at www.twitter.com/OhioFire