



NEWS

R E L E A S E

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Hudgens: Illegal Fireworks Vendors Shut Down

Atlanta- Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced that on July 1 staff from his office shut down two unlawful fireworks vendors.

A State Fire Marshal investigated a Monroe County man selling fireworks from a roadside trailer. Once it was determined that the man was selling without a license, the operation was shut down. Regardless of a valid license, consumer fireworks cannot be sold from vehicles or trailers in Georgia.

The second vendor, who was selling fireworks near Warner Robins, did not meet statutory guidelines concerning product amounts. The vendor, who did obtain a valid license, stored more than the amount legally allowed in his facility.

“In order to sell consumer fireworks in Georgia, you have to be properly licensed by my office,” Hudgens said. “Vendors who act illegally not only detract from businesses operating within the bounds of the law, they could potentially harm consumers.”

Earlier in the week, Hudgens announced that one thousand pounds of fireworks were confiscated from an unlicensed South Georgia vendor.

As of July 1, 2015, most consumer fireworks can be sold in Georgia. Distributors must obtain a license from the Department of Insurance and Safety Fire in order to sell these products. Only products approved by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission are legal in Georgia.

Consumers can check to see if a location is legally selling fireworks through the Department’s online listing:

<https://www.oci.ga.gov/FireWorksPortal/SearchLicensedFireworksFacility.aspx>

Individuals and businesses that knowingly violate the law can face fines up to \$2,500 per occurrence.