

Dear St. George Safety Network Member,

## **FIREWORKS**

Now that the Santa Parades have gotten the Christmas season off to a good start, let's not follow that with a fireworks related fire or injury. **There is no portion of the St. George Fire Protection District in which the detonation of fireworks (other than permitted, public demonstrations) is lawful.** If you find yourself in an area where fireworks are legal, please use caution:

- Stay away from buildings, vehicles, or any other combustibles
- Do not allow children to use fireworks unsupervised
- Never pick up or hold a lighted firework
- Do not lean over fireworks to light them; N
- Never re-light a firework that has gone out
- Have water hose or bucket of water on hand to completely douse "duds".

## **SANTA PARADES**

The St. George Santa Parades were a success this year, despite the rain.

We lost one complete day of our four-day parade schedule due to inclement weather. Despite this, I have been informed by both our partners, The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and Christmas for Challenged Children, that the 2009 total donations surpassed those of 2008, which was previously a record year for both. The preliminary total for the Food Bank is 12,368 pounds of usable food received. This number will grow because we have food barrels yet to be picked up and tallied at each of our 8 fire stations and at our administrative offices. Last year's total was 12,094 pounds.

These results came as a bit of a surprise, because we only had three days in which to work, but they are not at all surprising. This is a project everyone in the Department looks forward to and works very hard at. But most importantly, we all recognize what a very special community we serve. Your generosity, in what for many has been a year of uncertainty, has been heartwarming.

I was able to follow several of the units through part of their routes, and cannot adequately describe the joy on the faces of children, not just in seeing Santa, but in being able to personally put that food item or that toy in the hands of our partners.

So, on behalf of the Department and our partner organizations, thank you, citizens of St. George for making this another memorable year of Santa Parades. Our thanks also go to the many local media outlets who helped us inform the public of this event. We hope to see you next year during the first two weekends of December.

*Eldon Ledoux*

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