



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

BECKY KELLEY
DIRECTOR

July 1, 2015

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Park, Historic Site, & Golf Course Managers

FROM: Larry Blankenship, Chief of Operations

RE: Fireworks & Sparklers

This will serve as a reminder that although “fireworks” became legal in Georgia today, July 1, 2015. Due to safety concerns for our guests, our facilities and our resources, the Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division is continuing to not allow the private use of fireworks or sparklers on our sites.

Our current law, Georgia Code 12-3-10, Section (o). prohibits the private use of fireworks on our sites. Likewise within our park rules, we have the same restrictions under 391-5-1-.05 (5). I have provided you both code sections below:

Georgia Code 12-3-10

Section (o). It shall be unlawful for any person to use or possess in any park, historic site, or recreational area any fireworks, explosives, or firecrackers, unless stored so as not to be readily accessible or unless such use has been approved by prior written permission of the commissioner of natural resources or his authorized representative.

PRHS Rule

391-5-1-.05 Safety and General Conditions of Use (5) Explosives and Fireworks. Using, possessing, storing, or transporting explosives, blasting agents or explosive materials, fireworks and firecrackers is prohibited in all sites, unless authorized in writing by the director. When permitted, the use, possession, storage and transportation shall be in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and such terms and conditions as the director may establish. In an emergency, the discharge of distress signals or flares is permitted.

Although the law adopted in 2005 defines “sparklers” separately from “fireworks,” we will continue not to allow the use of sparklers at our sites due to safety concerns for our guests, our facilities and our resources.

As we enforce these restrictions, please keep in mind that our guests may assume that since fireworks and sparklers are now legal in Georgia, they may be unaware that the use of fireworks and sparklers are restricted on our sites. As such, please take an “educational” approach toward enforcing these restrictions, advising our guests that the restrictions are for the safety of our guests, our facilities and our resources.

Thanks for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions, please contact Larry Blankenship, 770-975-4224.

CC: Becky Kelley
Wally Woods
Terry Trowbridge
Region Managers