



Robert Mielke, Mayor

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Tracey Kujawa, Chief

PRESS RELEASE

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Fireworks Cancelled Due to Safety Concerns

After great contemplation and deliberation, the fireworks scheduled for display at Marathon Park last night were cancelled due to safety concerns. Spielbauer Fireworks, the independent contractor for the shoot, were very concerned about the fallout from the fireworks due to the direction and speed of the wind, and therefore the safety of spectators. The priority of the Wausau Fire Department is the safety of our citizens and visitors; therefore we followed the advice of the fireworks specialist to cancel the fireworks. A decision to do so is never taken lightly given the significance of the occasion; however, public safety is always the driving factor for any fireworks display.

The Wausau Fire Department reviews every request for fireworks thoroughly. The application for fireworks displays include liability insurance, list and sketch of display plan, site inspection by fire department, monitoring of wind directions/speeds, and all other pertinent federal, state, and local laws. There are approximately 15 scheduled and approved fireworks displays within the City of Wausau for this summer. The fireworks that were scheduled for last night at Marathon Park included 3-inch shells and explode at 300 feet in the air, requiring a minimum fallout distance of at least 210 feet. The wind, while relatively light at ground level, was blowing more strongly at 300 feet and in the direction of the grandstand which forced the cancellation.

The Wausau Fire Department will work with Wausau Area 4th of July Inc., organizers of the event, to try and find possible solutions to minimize the likelihood of cancellation which could include a change of venue or encouraging the fireworks display contractor to use smaller shells, therefore reducing the fallout distance.

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Questions or additional information may be obtained by contacting:

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