

## **Fireworks are risky due to dry weather conditions**

MADISON, AL, May 31, 2007: Mayor Sandy Kirkindall and Fire Chief Ralph Cobb warn residents of high fire risk.

The 4th of July is rapidly approaching. Residents are reminded that fireworks are illegal within Madison City limits. In the past, this prohibition has been frequently violated. While constituting a nuisance, fireworks usually pose a low hazard to life and property. However, this year the risk is different.

Presently, we have the driest conditions ever recorded. Our current dry pattern is not predicted to change. This year, the illegal use of fireworks presents a great hazard to both life and property. This hazard is not limited to Madison's wooded areas. Fire started from a fire cracker could flash across dry grass, ignite combustible mulch, run up the siding of a house and into the attic before you could call 9-1-1. Please act responsibly this year, and don't shoot fireworks. Don't find yourself responsible (and possibly liable) for someone losing their home.

The City of Madison sponsors a day-long celebration of the 4th of July at Dublin Park. The activities culminate with a fireworks display at dark. Your fire department will be there to ensure that any fire that results is rapidly contained.

The Fire Chief and I encourage you to come participate in that celebration and skip the home fireworks use.