



Morgantown Police Department

300 SPRUCE STREET
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 26505
(304) 284-7522
www.morgantownwv.gov



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 13, 2016

“Critical Injuries Sustained by Fireworks”

On August 13, 2016 the Morgantown Police Department responded to Ruby Memorial Hospital for a Report of Major Injuries. Officers arrived and found the victim in emergency surgery suffering from major injuries as a result of an uncontained explosion caused by fireworks.

The victim was in the area of Third Street and McLain Avenue and ignited a fireworks charge in a mortar tube and held it over his head to launch the projectile. The victim mistakenly believed that the charge had launched and pulled the tube down near his chest and body when the charge exploded. The victim suffered massive injuries as a result.

A witness to the incident took the victim to Ruby Memorial Hospital where he was immediately treated for his injuries. Officers retrieved the remnants of the explosion and have been conducting interviews of witnesses to the incident. The name of the victim is not being released at this time due to the ongoing medical treatment, however he is in critical condition at Ruby Memorial Hospital.

Although recent changes to fireworks regulation have gone into effect, the use of fireworks within the city limits of Morgantown remain illegal.

The Morgantown Police Department is committed to its goal of eliminating crime in our city. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing”**, by reporting suspected criminal activity to Morgantown Police Department Switchboard at (304) 284-7522. If you need immediate Police attention or a crime is in progress call 911.

Authority
Ed Preston
Chief of Police