



**JOE LESTER**  
Sheriff

DATE: Tuesday, July 01, 2014

SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE by Sheriff Joe Lester**  
**CCSO encourages safety over Independence Day**

Independence Day is just a few days away.

Cleveland County Sheriff Joe Lester and his deputies encourage everyone to enjoy the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday but please be safe especially when using fireworks.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 8,700 people were treated in emergency rooms for firework related injuries in the United States in 2012. Please use caution when handling any type of firework.

Citizens will use the holiday weekend to leave town and take trips. Deputies ask that people wear seat belts as they travel to their destination and no drinking and driving.

Also, watch the speed limit. Deputies won't hesitate to stop and cite motorists caught not obeying the speed limit.

This is a popular holiday weekend for crowds to gather at area lakes.

As people visit the lake, remember to wear life preservers while boating or swimming. Even the strongest swimmer can get into trouble in the water and drown.

Sheriff Lester said his deputies will arrest and jail anyone caught breaking the law and putting others in danger.

"I hope everybody enjoys celebrating Independence Day but please be cautious and keep safe," Lester said. "If you disregard the law, you will find yourself in trouble and spending the extended weekend in jail."

Any questions regarding this press release and/or information can be addressed to Meghan McCormick, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, community liaison/public information officer. McCormick can be reached at (405) 701-8847.