

## **How can I enjoy at-home fireworks while respecting neighbors who are sensitive to them?**

It's important to respect your neighbors while enjoying summer festivities!

Some people experience sensitivity to fireworks, not the least of which are our veterans and others with post-traumatic stress disorder. And yes, we have some of those souls in Crystal Lake Township and the Benzie community.

Talk to your neighbors well in advance of your celebrations, and ask if your planned activities are in tune with their tolerance levels. If not, find an alternative activity or location.

"If you choose to use fireworks, consider doing so at a planned, reasonable, and known time interval, and communicating that to those around you, so your celebration doesn't become the unintentional "trigger" for someone else," said Ryan Engle, partnership coordinator at the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

"Or, consider starting a new tradition to celebrate independence and the purpose of the holiday – one many men and women fought and sacrificed for."