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“Warning Extremely Dangerous Directions for Firing”

K. L. and B. J. Kosanke

The title of this very short article is, in effect, a direct quote from a label found on some display firework aerial shells, see Figure 1. As it turns out, the label is more literally correct than might have been intended. Note that one of the instructions is to “LIGHT FUSE BEFORE PUT IN TO MORTAR...” Few if any would argue that users should not be “warned” about such “extremely dangerous directions for firing”. As regards this particular label, it would definitely seem to be a good thing that many inexperienced users of display fireworks fail to read (and in this case, rigorously follow) the use instructions accompanying them.

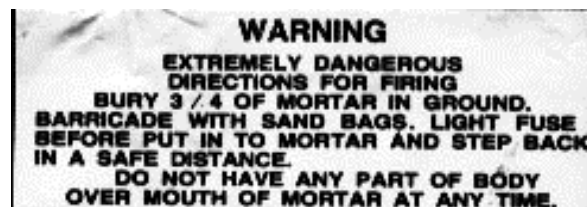


Figure 1. A copy of the warning and direction label found on some display firework aerial shells imported in 2004.

The authors are grateful to Mike Walden (Pyro Shows, Inc.) for finding and reporting the problem with this warning and direction label.