



Water Quality: What YOU can do to help Silver Lake. **Tips from the Silver Lake Association's Water Quality Committee**

Tip Four: Prepare to use your flares properly

Phosphorus from the flares can negatively impact our lake. Please use them responsibly.

Flare Usage

The period surrounding the 4th of July is very active time around Silver Lake. On July 3rd, Silver Lake residents create a spectacular "Ring of Fire" around the lake's circumference. The Ring of Fire is then followed by elaborate fireworks displays.

Although lighting options for the Ring of Fire continue to evolve, spiked flares like the one shown here remain the most commonly used. These flares are simple to use, but users must exercise due caution for two reasons: First, they burn at ~1400F. Second, they are composed of phosphorus-containing species.

Left unchecked, excess phosphorus in lakes leads to: increased algae blooms and weed growth; decreased water quality and recreation; and negative impact on fish, desirable plant and animal life.

You can help to minimize phosphorous introduction from burning flares entering Silver Lake. Toward this end, when using flares for the Ring of Fire, please take a moment to implement a pie tin as shown below for each of your flares. This simple design serves to catch the phosphorous-containing debris that is produced from the burning flares. The design also makes clean up much, much faster and avoids you touching potentially toxic debris.

Please do your part to protect our lake by using the pie tin strategy.

