



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

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CONTACT: Louis Penna, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-5870, 800-426-8689, pager #3307

FIREWORKS ALERT!

Possession of any type of fireworks, including “safe and sane” fireworks, is against the law in any unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. In the event a fire occurs due to the unsafe use of fireworks, the responsible persons are likely to face criminal charges and be held liable for damages.

“Safe and Sane” fireworks are **only** allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. Please call the fire department in these cities for more information. All fireworks are illegal elsewhere in the county. All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California.

With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCoFD) has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety. Fire and law enforcement agencies will be conducting operations this year to stop attempts to smuggle tens of thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense with the possibility of arrest. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property.

“Residents play an important role in our fireworks investigations. If you see something, say something. Call the authorities or WeTip hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON to anonymously report illegal fireworks,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, on a typical 4th of July, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. In addition to fires, fireworks cause deaths, blindness, maiming injuries to children and adults, re-traumatize war veterans suffering from PTSD, and frighten household pets.

While “Safe and Sane” fireworks are allowed in some San Bernardino County communities, the County Board of Supervisors and SBCoFD encourage residents to watch fireworks at community celebrations rather than use their own. Visit sbcfire.org for a schedule of local firework displays.

When using Safe and Sane fireworks where allowed, SBCoFD offers some safety tips:

- ✓ Always use fireworks (“Safe and Sane” *only*) with an adult present. Even a “Safe and Sane” sparkler burns at a temperature that ignites clothing easily
- ✓ Always read and follow label directions
- ✓ Always have water (garden hose/bucket) and a fire extinguisher within reach
- ✓ Always place fireworks on a firm, non-combustible surface, like a sidewalk or pavement
- ✓ Never alter fireworks
- ✓ Never re-light “dud” fireworks
- ✓ Homemade fireworks are often deadly; leave the making of fireworks to the experts
- ✓ Never point, throw or mishandle fireworks

For more information on fireworks safety, contact your local fire station.

Have a SAFE celebration!

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