NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

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CONTACT: ***Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer***
(909) 387-5950, 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, 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, SBCoFire has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety. Fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use of fireworks, with fines up to $1,250 for the first offense. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property.

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. While "Safe and Sane" fireworks are allowed in some San Bernardino County communities, the County Board of Supervisors and SBCoFire encourage residents to watch aerial firework displays at community celebrations rather than use their own.

When using fireworks where allowed, County Fire offers the following 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

In addition to fires, fireworks cause deaths, blindness, and maiming injuries to children and adults every year. For more information on fireworks safety, contact your local fire station.

Have a SAFE celebration!