



# NEWS



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## Homeowner Fights Fire Until Firefighters Arrive | FONTANA, CA 4.3.21

Staff Writer, Loudlabs News

Posted: April 8, 2021



FONTANA, CALIFORNIA – **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a reported structure fire in the 17200 Block of Ceres St in the City of Fontana. Firefighters arrived at a structure with a working fire towards the rear. The fire was knocked down just before 2:00 AM.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

One resident had minor smoke inhalation but denied transport. No other information provided on the scene.

<https://loudlabs.com/news/los-angeles-california/homeowner-fights-fire-until-firefighters-arrive-fontana-ca-4-3-21-136880/>

## San Bernardino County Fire Department announces new Illegal Firework Reporting System for county residents to report the use and sales of illegal fireworks

Zachary Lopez, Zach News

Posted: April 8, 2021



Picture: San Bernardino County Fire Department (Courtesy)

San Bernardino County, California: The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department has announced a new Illegal Firework Reporting System for county residents to report the use and sales of illegal fireworks.

The announcement occurred during a press conference held on Thursday, April 8th, 2021.

According to the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the dangers associated with the usage of illegal fireworks is enormous, as recently seen in the City of Ontario, where two lives were lost and over \$3 million in damage to homes in the neighborhood.

The new illegal firework reporting system offers another source for the public to report the use and sales of illegal fireworks.

Once a complaint has been filed, local law enforcement will be notified for follow-up and investigation.

All reports go into a database that will assist fire and law enforcement agencies in targeting the problem areas throughout the county, thus focusing our patrol and interdiction resources to those specific areas. It only takes a few minutes and you can remain anonymous.

“The use of illegal fireworks puts the public, our firefighters and police officers at risk creating an unnecessary burden and additional cost to our communities. This new county-wide reporting system is another tool that will assist us in getting illegal fireworks off our streets. By reporting the storage, sales and use of illegal fireworks, you could be saving your own life, the life of a loved one and those around you,” stated San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Mike Horton.

Fire Marshal Horton went on to say, “We can’t go it alone. We need the public’s help in combatting this growing crisis. I encourage you to get involved and make a difference.”

The new reporting system is located on our website at <https://bit.ly/3wzJRFW> or directly at <https://bit.ly/3wunDoS>.

“Fire and law enforcement officials remain united in the diligent enforcement of our local laws while making arrests and issuing citations for the use and sales of illegal fireworks. We take a no tolerance stand against this type of criminal act and pledge to continue our efforts in this battle,” said San Bernardino County Assistant Sheriff Horace Boatwright.

Over the past four years, San Bernardino County Fire investigators alone confiscated over 121,600 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks and issued more than 700 citations.

San Bernardino County Fire will be offering several Firework Surrender Days.

Residents can surrender illegal or safe and sane fireworks; no questions asked, and no law enforcement involved.

You drive up, fire personnel remove the fireworks from your vehicle, and you drive away.

These events are open to all San Bernardino County residents.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3wzJRFW> for a list of dates and locations or any San Bernardino County Fire social media platforms.

San Bernardino County Fire remind residents that possession and use of any type of fireworks, including “safe and sane”, are against the law in any unincorporated area of San Bernardino County.

In the likely event a fire or injury occurs due to the unsafe or illegal use of fireworks, the responsible persons may face criminal charges and be held liable for damages.

Property owners may also be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

We thank you for your diligence and willingness to get involved and stop this criminal act.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/04/08/news-alert-san-bernardino-county-ca-san-bernardino-county-fire-department-announces-new-illegal-firework-reporting-system-for-county-residents-to-report-the-use-and-sales-of-illegal-fireworks/>

## Fire Department creates new Illegal Firework Reporting System

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: April 8, 2021



The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department has created a new Illegal Firework Reporting System, providing another source for residents to report the use and sales of illegal fireworks.

The dangers associated with the usage of illegal fireworks is enormous, as recently seen in Ontario, where two lives were lost and more than \$3 million in damage was done to homes in a neighborhood due to an explosion last month, officials said during a press conference on April 8.

With the Illegal Firework Reporting System in place, once a complaint has been filed, local law enforcement will be notified for follow-up and investigation. All reports go into a database that will assist fire and law enforcement agencies in targeting the problem areas throughout the county, thus focusing their patrol and interdiction resources to those specific areas. Making a complaint will take a few minutes and can be done anonymously.

“The use of illegal fireworks puts the public, our firefighters and police officers at risk, creating an unnecessary burden and additional cost to our communities,” said Fire Marshal Mike Horton. “This new county-wide reporting system is another tool that will assist us in getting illegal fireworks off our streets. By reporting the storage, sales and use of illegal fireworks, you could be saving your own life, the life of a loved one and those around you.”

Horton went on to say: “We can’t go it alone. We need the public’s help in combating this growing crisis. I encourage you to get involved and make a difference.”

The new reporting system is located on the Fire Department's website at <https://www.sbcfire.org/>

“Fire and law enforcement officials remain united in the diligent enforcement of our local laws while making arrests and issuing citations for the use and sales of illegal fireworks,” said San Bernardino County Assistant Sheriff Horace Boatwright. “We take a no tolerance stand against this type of criminal act and pledge to continue our efforts in this battle.”

Over the past four years, San Bernardino County Fire investigators alone confiscated more than 121,600 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks and issued more than 700 citations.

----- IN ADDITION, San Bernardino County Fire will be offering several Firework Surrender Days. Residents can surrender illegal or safe and sane fireworks; no questions asked, and no law enforcement

involved. Persons can drive up, fire personnel will remove the fireworks from their vehicle, and then they can drive away. These events are open to all San Bernardino County residents.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fire-department-creates-new-illegal-firework-reporting-system/article\\_02c100c0-98b9-11eb-8542-67022522425a.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fire-department-creates-new-illegal-firework-reporting-system/article_02c100c0-98b9-11eb-8542-67022522425a.html)

## **‘Say something:’ New online system allows reporting of illegal fireworks in San Bernardino County**

**Brian Rokos, San Bernardino The Sun**

Posted: April 8, 2021 at 5:30PM



**San Bernardino County Fire** Marshal Mike Horton speaks during a press conference outside of San Bernardino County Fire Station 79 in Fontana Thursday morning April 8, 2021. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

Muscoy resident Jane Hunt-Ruble says she has been in tears while pleading with San Bernardino County supervisors to do something about people igniting illegal fireworks that frighten horses, injure people and damage property in the neighborhood where she has lived for 50 years.

“It’s all year round now. Even on Easter,” said Hunt-Ruble, 72.

Hunt-Ruble discussed her concerns after watching as the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department on Thursday, April 8, rolled out a plan that it hopes will help solve the problem.

Anyone can now go on to the department’s website at [sbcfire.org](http://sbcfire.org) and anonymously report the use and sales of illegal fireworks. The system, which allows the user to upload photos and videos, will create a database of fireworks reports that will help officials target problem areas. Law enforcement will respond promptly to only those reports that provide a specific location where fireworks are currently being shot off or sold.

County public safety officials have confiscated some 121,000 pounds of illegal fireworks and written more than 700 citations that resulted in \$875,000 in fines in the past four years, Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

“And it yet doesn’t deter people enough, and fireworks still get into our communities. This problem is growing every year,” Horton said at a news conference in Fontana while standing in front of a display of decidedly not safe-and-sane fireworks with names such as Barrel Bombs, King Pyro and Forbidden Zone.

Fireworks of all varieties are illegal in unincorporated areas of the county, Horton said.

The March 16 fireworks explosion in Ontario that killed two people and caused more than \$3 million in damage again put the pyrotechnics issue in focus, Horton noted. Ontario police on Thursday had no updates on the investigation.

County Supervisor Janice Rutherford said 2020 was “particularly warlike” in terms of noise because people stayed home on Independence Day after public displays were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The noise is not the only outrageous problem,” she said. “The day after, you’ll see streets littered with debris and trash. You’ll see owners search for their beloved pets that ran away. And you may even hear about horrific injuries.”

Rutherford announced a schedule of dates when people can turn in illegal fireworks to county fire stations, no questions asked. The first two are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 10 at Station 221, 200 E. 3rd St., San Bernardino; and Station 71, 16980 Arrow Blvd., Fontana. The list is on the county fire website.

Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren urged people to take advantage of the fireworks-reporting system.

“I’ve got faith in our community that we will say something if we see something,” she said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/04/08/say-something-new-online-system-allows-reporting-of-illegal-fireworks-in-san-bernardino-county/>



## In aftermath of Ontario explosion, San Bernardino County cracking down on illegal fireworks with new reporting system

Leticia Juarez, ABC 7 News

Posted: April 8, 2021 at 7:31PM



The system comes in the wake of a massive explosion at an Ontario home that was triggered by an illegal stockpile of fireworks. Two people were killed, and the explosion left over \$3 million in damages to nearby homes.

"The idea is that any resident can call in a tip. If you know someone who is buying selling or making illegal fireworks you can report it," said San Bernardino County Supervisor Janice Rutherford.

The system will offer the public another avenue to report the use, sales and storage of illegal fireworks. Once a complaint is made, local law enforcement will follow up and investigate. All reports will be filed into a database to help assist the fire department and law enforcement with targeted enforcement.

"Law enforcement and fire will team up during our fireworks patrols leading up to the Fourth of July and we will utilize our contactless citation program," said Fire Marshall Mike Horton with **San Bernardino County Fire**.

Property owners could face hefty fines if their guests are found using fireworks.

"That app pinpoints that activity and automatically issues a citation for \$1,250 to the property owner. So, we are telling property owners this year you are responsible for what happens on your property," said Horton.

The county will also offer to take back fireworks during its 10 firework surrender events, no questions asked.

To learn more about the reporting system or to surrender fireworks click on the [link](#).

<https://abc7.com/san-bernardino-county-cracking-down-on-illegal-fireworks/10499445/>

## **“Say Something” County Fire Makes It Easier to Report Illegal Fireworks**

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: April 9, 2021



County residents have been in tears pleading with San Bernardino County to do something about people igniting illegal fireworks that frighten animals, injure people, damage property, interrupt sleep, and trigger PTSD in what should be quiet neighborhoods. The problem has grown to a year-round one. Now, residents can go to the **County Fire** website at sbcfire.org and anonymously report the use and sales of illegal fireworks. The system, which allows the user to upload photos and videos, will create a database of fireworks reports that will help officials target problem areas. Law enforcement will respond promptly to only those reports that provide a specific location where fireworks are currently being shot off or sold. County public safety officials have confiscated some 121,000 pounds of illegal fireworks and written more than 700 citations that resulted in \$875,000 in fines in the past four years. Fireworks of all varieties are illegal in the entire Morongo Basin. A March 16 fireworks explosion in Ontario killed two people and caused more than \$3 million in damages.

<http://z1077fm.com/say-something-county-fire-makes-it-easier-to-report-illegal-fireworks/>