

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

Subject: **Fireworks Safety for 4th of July Weekend**

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District reminds everyone the sale, possession, or use of **all** fireworks is illegal in Contra Costa County, including sparklers and other so-called “Safe & Sane” fireworks. If you or someone you know has fireworks for disposal call your local police department or the Fire District main office at 925-941-3300 for instructions. **Do not take fireworks to a fire station.**

The summer weather conditions which exist in our area such as high temperatures, wind and low humidity, along with the dry grass and untreated wood shake roofs all provide the ingredients for a fire disaster.

This holiday weekend is forecast to be hot, with wind and lower humidity, creating a higher than normal fire danger for our area.

Every year, fireworks account for a substantial number of preventable injuries and fires. **Last year over 40 fires were documented as being caused by fireworks in the Fire District, resulting in damage to at least one structure and causing one injury.** Because fireworks can be dangerous and deadly, the safest way to enjoy them is through public displays conducted by professionals hired by cities and other civic organizations.

Parents need to be especially vigilant during this period in assuring that children do not possess fireworks. “Few people understand the risks of consumer fireworks. This is a problem that takes effort and attention by adults and caregivers to pass along the right message to kids, both in words and actions; that fireworks are not safe to handle or use” says Fire Marshal Lewis Broschard.

There are numerous public fireworks displays being conducted throughout the holiday weekend in Contra Costa County. For a listing of professional fireworks displays call the Fire District’s Fireworks Hotline 925-941-3328.

Do not use illegal fireworks. This year, leave fireworks to the professionals. Celebrate the 4th of July by enjoying one of the many community fireworks displays and have a safe holiday.