



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 25th, 2020

**FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY 2020 - FIREWORK SAFETY TIPS
FOR THE CITIES OF ARROYO GRANDE AND GROVER BEACH AND THE
COMMUNITY OF OCEANO**

Fireworks celebrations are fast approaching and the Five Cities Fire Authority would like to remind everyone of precautionary measures to ensure a safe and accident-free holiday:

**It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase fireworks.
They may use “Safe and Sane” fireworks under adult supervision only.**

- “Safe and Sane” fireworks certified by the State Fire Marshall are legally available for sale in the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and the Oceano Community Services District June 28th through July 5th.
- Check with local authorities before purchasing fireworks, as some areas ban all fireworks use.
- The discharge of fireworks is allowed in the cities of **Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach ONLY on July 4th. Grover Beach allows the use of fireworks on the 4th between 10am – 10pm.**
- Illegal fireworks are those that go up in the air, explode or move on the ground in an uncontrollable manner. Examples are mortars, M-80s, M-100s, Cherry Bombs, Firecrackers, and Bottle Rockets. The possession or use of illegal fireworks is a misdemeanor crime and subject to a \$1,000 fine.
- Never hold fireworks in your hand when lighting them.
- A large bucket of water, sand or a garden hose should be ready at the firing site.
- Read the instructions on each piece of fireworks so you know how it should be fired.

- Wear cotton clothing and do not wear nylon, loose clothing or materials that burn quickly when setting off fireworks.
- Select a firing site free of overhead wires, obstacles such as trees or branches and away from houses. Be mindful that during our current drought conditions that many people have stopped watering their lawns. The dried grass is combustible.
- Even with backyard fireworks, a spectator area should be designated at least 15 feet away from where the fireworks are going to be lit. Pets should not be allowed in the area.
- Dispose of spent fireworks in a container of water.
- DO NOT attempt to re-light a piece that doesn't go off. Do not approach or move such a piece for at least 30 minutes.
- **Never alter, modify or enhance fireworks.** Use only as directed.
- Watch for sparks or debris from fireworks. They can start fires.
- Burns caused by fireworks can be more serious than they first appear. If you are concerned, check with your family physician.
- Remember that fireworks are made from explosives, and that they are unpredictable.

The Fire Authority will have units out on patrol during the evening of July 4th.



STEPHEN C. LIEBERMAN
FIRE CHIEF

June 25th, 2020
DATE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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