



NEWS RELEASE

*Contact: Commander Arroyo, 805-339-4441
Release prepared by: Emily Graves
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Fourth of July Safety

Fireworks are Illegal in the City of Ventura, Please be a good neighbor

This year, with many Fourth of July events and professional fireworks displays canceled due to COVID-19, it's more important than ever to remind our community that it is illegal to possess, store, sell, use, or handle fireworks in the City of Ventura.

In 2018, after the devastation from the Thomas Fire, the Ventura City Council adopted a Fireworks Social Host Ordinance. Under this ordinance, any homeowner, renter, or person in charge of a residence or other private property who knows or should know of the sale, use, and/or possession of any fireworks on private property is subject to a civil penalty levied by the City of Ventura.

"While fireworks are an emblem of July 4th celebrations, in the absence of public displays, we strongly encourage residents to find safe and creative alternatives for celebrating the holiday this year," said Ventura Police Chief Darin Schindler. "Fireworks are simply too dangerous and unpredictable to be used safely. Don't put you or the life of a person you love at risk by using illegal fireworks."

Anyone found in possession of fireworks or caught using them could be fined up to \$1,000 and/or receive a jail term of up to a year, under California Health and Safety Code Fireworks Penalties, Section 12700.

"While we will never be able to eliminate accidents, the public needs to understand how easily fireworks can start a fire or cause severe burns," commented Ventura City Fire Chief David Endaya. "With dry brush surrounding our City's hillsides, the fire is substantial and cannot be ignored. We want everyone to practice safety, use caution, and enjoy a safe holiday."

Community members are encouraged to take the following steps to help partner in making it a safe Fourth of July for all:

- Report firework disturbances to the Ventura Police Department's 24/7 non-emergency number at 805-650-8010. Please be prepared to provide detailed information of the firework activity, including the address and suspect being reported.
- For emergencies, please call 9-1-1.

If celebrating at home, please don't invite the fireworks!