

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Fire Safety Article



**From The Office Of Fire Chief Chip Prather
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June 20, 2007

FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) wants to remind everyone that the sale, discharge or possession of fireworks is illegal in most areas of Orange County. Only five cities allow “safe and sane” fireworks with very specific restrictions on their sale and discharge. Those cities include Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Garden Grove and Stanton. It is important to know that you cannot buy fireworks in those cities and then light them off in another city.

Firecrackers, bottle rockets, cherry bombs and other devices that explode, move along the ground, or travel through the air are banned throughout the State of California. There is no safe or legal area to possess, sell or discharge these types of dangerous fireworks anywhere in the state.

The OCFA recommends that residents enjoy a Fourth of July celebration with friends and family at a professional fireworks show. Many communities provide additional amenities, including barbecues, concerts and children’s activities along with a large fireworks show.

**For a listing of professional fireworks shows, please call the OCFA at (714) 573-6225.
Show locations are described in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.**

Each year in the United States, more than 10,000 people suffer eye injuries and burns from fireworks, and fireworks cause approximately 3,000 fires. These statistics include both the use of illegal fireworks as well “safe and sane” fireworks. Since 2003, 45 percent of persons injured from fireworks are children 14 years and younger and children ages 5 to 9 have the highest injury rate. Sparklers, which can reach temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees, are responsible for most injuries involving children under the age of five.

To obtain a flyer with additional information on fireworks and fireworks safety, please call the OCFA Community Relations and Education Section at (714) 573-6200 or visit OCFA’s website at www.ocfa.org/safety&education.



Fireworks and Summer Safety

www.ocfa.org

Each year in the United States, more than 10,000 people suffer eye injuries and burns from fireworks. Three thousand fires are caused by fireworks. Most of these incidents are related to the use of illegal fireworks as well as state-approved fireworks that are lit by amateurs.

All Types of Fireworks are Prohibited in Most Areas of Orange County

Except public displays permitted by local fire departments

Due to the risk of fire, eye injuries and burns, fireworks are prohibited in the following areas:

- Fireworks are prohibited at all State Parks and State Beaches [14 CCR 4314]
- Fireworks are prohibited in County Harbors, Beaches and Parks [O.C.C.O. 02-05-37]
- Fireworks are prohibited at all City Beaches [CFC 7802.3]
- Fireworks are prohibited in Unincorporated Orange County [CFC 7802.3]
- Fireworks are prohibited in the Cleveland National Forest [36 CFR 261.52(f)]
- Fireworks are prohibited in most Cities and City Parks* [CFC 7802.3]
- Report the use of ANY ILLEGAL fireworks immediately to law enforcement or your fire department at (714) 538-3501.

* Only the cities of Stanton, Buena Park, Santa Ana, Costa Mesa and Garden Grove allow state-approved fireworks. You must be over 16 years of age to legally use fireworks.

Nationwide Firework-Related Injury Statistics

- Since 2003, 45% of persons injured from fireworks are children 14 years and younger.
- Children ages 5 to 9 have the highest injury rate involving fireworks.
- Sparklers are associated with the most injuries involving children under the age of 5.
- Sparklers can reach temperatures of more than 1000°F.

What To Do If You Get Burned

- Cool the burn with cool water, not ice.
- Seek medical treatment or call **9-1-1**.
- Do not apply butter or ointments.

Other Fire Hazards Associated With July 4th

Beach Firepits

After a barbeque at the beach, many picnickers cover red-hot coals with sand thinking it will extinguish the hot briquettes. Instead, the sand acts as an insulator making the coals even hotter. The result of this action can lead to children walking over the covered fire pit several hours later and severely burning their feet. Every year, six to 12 youngsters suffer very deep burns on their hands and feet, which require skin grafts and months of recuperation.

Barbeque Mishaps

Beware of mixing oil with fire! Every year, thousands of backyard chefs become impatient when their charcoal briquettes are slow to heat. To speed up this operation they apply more charcoal lighter fluid to smoldering coals directly from the can. The result of this action is that the hot briquettes ignite the stream of lighter fluid in an instant, racing to the can, and bursting into flames in the cook's hand.

Public Firework Displays

You can enjoy a Fourth of July celebration with friends and family at a professional firework show. Many communities provide additional amenities including BBQs, concerts and children's activities along with a large firework show.

Conducted by licensed, trained professionals, a public firework display is the smartest and safest alternative.

Safety Tips:

- **Spectators should stay behind barriers.**
- **Pets have very sensitive ears** and the sounds associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable. Leave pets at home.
- **Leave the lighting of all fireworks to the trained operator.** Most cities forbid the possession or use of any fireworks by private individuals.
- **To find a fireworks show near you, call (714) 573-6225.**

Important Contacts

Where to Find a Public Fireworks Display

(714) 573-6225

www.ocfa.org

Report Illegal Fireworks

(714) 538-3501

UCI Burn Center

(888) 622-BURN

www.ucihealth.com

American Academy of Pediatrics - Section on Ophthalmology

(866) 843-AAP1

www.aap.org