



Bexar County Fire Marshal

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Fourth of July Fireworks Sales Period Begins Without Restrictions *Bexar County Fire Marshal advises caution as County is under burn ban*

The fireworks sales period for the Fourth of July officially began June 20 and will run through the holiday without restrictions on the sale or use in unincorporated Bexar County.

However, keeping in mind public safety and spirit of the burn ban issued by the Bexar County Commissioners Court last week, all local fireworks vendors have voluntarily suspended the sale of rockets with sticks and missiles with fins.

“Because there have been more than 300 grass fires within Bexar County since the beginning of the year, I would like to thank the participating fireworks vendors who have proactively taken these extra precautionary measures,” stated Bexar County Fire Marshal Chris Lopez, “With conditions as dry as they are, I urge the public to please exercise extreme caution when setting off fireworks. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch a public display put on by professionals.”

Residents who use consumer fireworks should follow these tips to avoid causing injuries and damage to property:

- Select an area free of dry grasses and other dead vegetation.
- Keep a bucket of water or a water hose nearby.
- Do not use fireworks when the weather forecast calls for winds above 10 mph.
- Always read and follow manufacturer’s recommendations and instructions.
- Have an adult present and never give fireworks to children.
- Only use fireworks outdoors. It is against state law to shoot fireworks from a motor vehicle.
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks. Make sure you only use fireworks purchased from a reliable licensed seller.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a “dud” firework. If a firework does not work properly, wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water and dispose of it properly.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Do not shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

It is illegal to discharge fireworks within 600 feet of a hospital, sanitarium, veterinary hospital, school or church; and within 100 feet of a fuel dispensing station for flammable or combustible liquids; and to discharge fireworks at or from a motor vehicle.

Lopez also wants to remind residents that arson charges can be brought against a person who recklessly causes a fire, regardless of the person's intent.

The Bexar County Public Safety Communications Center will operate a fireworks hotline from June 30 through July 5. Residents in unincorporated Bexar County who see unsafe or illegal uses of fireworks should call 210-335-FIRE.

Medical emergencies or fires caused by fireworks should be reported by calling 911.

For information about the potential fire danger within Bexar County, please visit the Fire Marshal's Office webpages at www.bexar.org.

For more information on wildfire risk and outdoor burning guidelines, please visit <https://www.bexar.org/630/Fire-Marshal>.

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