



# Bexar County Fire Marshal

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **New Year's Eve Fireworks Sales Period to Begin without Restrictions**

*Bexar County Fire Marshal advises caution and asks the public to celebrate responsibly.*

The fireworks sales period for New Year's Eve will officially begin on Friday, Dec. 20 and will run through Wednesday, Jan. 1 without restrictions on the sale or use in unincorporated Bexar County.

"Even though we have seen an increase in rainfall these past few weeks, there is still plenty of fuel, such as dry grasses, left over from this past summer that could potentially start fires," stated Bexar County Fire Marshal Chris Lopez. "The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch a public display put on by professionals, but if you intend to set off fireworks this year, please do so with safety precautions including having water readily available."

Bexar County Fire Marshal personnel will conduct inspections on all fireworks stands and warehouses located throughout the unincorporated areas during the current sale period and be out on patrol looking for potential violations, unsafe use of fireworks, and unsafe burning throughout the New Year holiday.

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 Dec. 28 through Jan. 2. 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](http://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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