



Bexar County Fire Marshal

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Fireworks safety for New Year's Eve

The New Year's Eve sales period for fireworks is in full swing and due to the low drought index in Bexar County there are no restrictions or bans on the sale or use of fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county. However, Fire Marshal Craig Roberts is asking residents to follow simple safety guidelines when it comes to the personal use of fireworks.

Even in the best weather conditions there is still a danger associated with the use of fireworks. Users should follow these tips to avoid causing damage to their property or the property of others:

- 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.

Beyond the danger of starting a fire, residents also should consider their personal safety as well as the safety of others when using fireworks by following these tips:

- Always read and follow manufacturer's recommendations and instructions.
- Have an adult present and never give fireworks to children.
- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Always have plenty of water available to extinguish a fire should one start.
- 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.
- Wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.

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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.

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