



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Public Affairs Bureau
951-940-6985

Release Date:
June 11, 2020

SHAWN C. NEWMAN
FIRE CHIEF

FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

CAL FIRE / Riverside County Fire Department would like to remind all residents and visitors that Riverside County Ordinances 858 and 787 prohibit the use of any type of fireworks in Riverside County; including sparklers.

The cities of Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, and Indio are allowing the sale and use of State Fire Marshal approved "Safe and Sane" fireworks during the Fourth of July Holiday. Those purchasing fireworks within these cities must not transport, sell, possess, store, or set-off fireworks outside the cities where the fireworks are purchased.

CAL FIRE Law Enforcement and partnering agencies throughout Riverside County are enforcing **zero tolerance** for illegal fireworks. They *will* be confiscated. Persons caught with illegal fireworks are subject to arrest, citation, and/or fines. In addition, anyone who causes a fire using fireworks may be held financially responsible for all fire suppression costs.

"We have experienced early drying of annual grasses due to unseasonably warm temperatures, which dry out vegetation quickly, creating a fire hazard. I urge residents to refrain from using illegal fireworks and take advantage of local events that celebrate our Country's independence during the 4th of July weekend", said CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Chief, Shawn C. Newman.

With CDC and local social distancing guidelines, many cities have opted to cancel their annual public fireworks shows. To find a fireworks show near you, please visit city websites throughout Riverside County.

To report the use of illegal fireworks in non-emergency situations, please contact the Riverside County Sheriff's Department at 951-776-1099 or 800-950-2444. If you have an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

###