

Fireworks Safety Notice

Posted: 03/21/2006

If you plan to celebrate the Fourth of July with your own fireworks, please be aware of the following important information:

Fireworks are only permitted from June 28 to 11:59 p.m. on July 4. People need to be aware of which fireworks are legal during this period.

Firefighters are very concerned this year due to the extremely dry conditions, some of the worst in 75 years. When people use fireworks, the chances of fire increase. In Clark County, **Safe-N-Sane** (legal fireworks) go on sale on Tuesday, July 28, until midnight on July 4. **After 11:59 p.m., on July 4, all types of fireworks, including Safe-N-Sane, become illegal. Please make sure the fireworks purchased are marked as Safe-N-Sane and are sold at authorized booths.**

Fire officials are urging the public to use extreme caution when using the fireworks and follow safety rules.

Fireworks that **fly** through the air, **explode** or **rotate** on the ground are illegal at all times in Clark County. Usually referred to as "illegal fireworks", they can be confiscated and the person in possession can be cited. The penalty is a maximum of six months in jail or a \$1,000 fine, or both.

Illegal fireworks are usually sold outside Clark County and on the Indian reservation. Those sold on the Indian reservation should be used on the reservation at a special designated area and not off the reservation. Taking fireworks off the reservation is illegal and people doing so can have their fireworks confiscated and be cited.

What makes illegal fireworks dangerous is the fact that the person using them does not have complete control over them. Flying rockets can land anywhere, such as in trees and on roofs, causing them to catch fire. Those that explode can cause serious injury, as well as those that rotate on the ground.

Even though some fireworks are listed as Safe-N-Sane fireworks, the user still must exercise extreme caution. Here are some safety tips:

- Fireworks should be used on a flat surface, such as the ground or the driveway.
- Fireworks should not be used on streets.
- Stay away from bushes, grass and trees or anything else that might catch fire.
- Stay away from vehicles.
- Have a bucket of water and garden hose available to use in a case of fire.
- Fireworks should be used with adult supervision at all times.
- After the fireworks are used, they should be picked up with a shovel and dropped into a bucket of water and allowed to soak for at least an hour before discarding into the trash.
- "Duds", or fireworks that do not fire after being lit, should be picked up with a shovel and dropped into a bucket of water and allowed to soak for several hours before being discarded.
- If a fire does start because of fireworks, don't panic. Use the garden hose to either extinguish the fire or keep it in check until firefighters arrive on scene.
- Fireworks should never be used in a building.
- All fireworks after midnight on July 4 are illegal and should not be used.
- Fireworks are not permitted at any time on streets, in any parks, on city property or on a school district property.
- Fireworks are not permitted on federal property, which includes all of the parks and recreational areas surrounding the valley, including Lake Mead, Mount Charleston, the Spring Mountains and Red Rock Canyon. These areas are in extreme fire danger conditions and fireworks are an extreme danger to these areas.