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NEWS RELEASE



City of
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON

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Fire marshals outline personal fireworks sales, use laws

Vancouver, WA – Clark County and City of Vancouver fire marshals are urging residents to keep Fourth of July fireworks celebrations safe and legal. Effective this year, fireworks may not be discharged on July 5.

In the city of Vancouver: Legal fireworks may be used:

- July 1-3: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- July 4: 9 a.m. to midnight.

Sales in Vancouver begin June 28, but fireworks may not be discharged until July 1. Fireworks may not be used in public parks. The fine is \$250 for a single violation for unlawful sale, use or possession. A second violation is \$500 and subsequent violations are \$1,000.

In unincorporated areas of Clark County: Legal fireworks may be used:

- June 28: noon to 11 p.m.
- June 29-July 3: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- July 4: 9 a.m. to midnight.

Use outside these dates and times is subject to a \$250 fine per violation. Penalties for unlawful sale, use or possession include civil citations of \$250 per violation, or offenders can be charged criminally and fined up to \$1,000 and/or sentenced to 90 days in jail.

In other cities: Residents of Clark County cities other than Vancouver are encouraged to check with their city about legal fireworks dates and curfews.

TIPS FOR A SAFE FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

Legal fireworks: Buy only from a licensed fireworks stand with items clearly labeled with the name of the item, manufacturer and instructions for proper use. Firecrackers, bottle rockets, M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters are illegal and can cause serious injury or death.

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Supervise children closely: Only adults should light fireworks. Do not allow young children to play with fireworks. Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under adult supervision. Children must be at least 16 years old and present identification to legally purchase fireworks. Be vigilant about keeping matches, lighters and fireworks safely away from youngsters.

Tribal fireworks: Fireworks sold on tribal lands may not be legal off the reservation.

Always follow directions on the label: Even sparklers, which burn at more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, can be dangerous if used improperly. Light only one firework at a time and don't try to re-light a "dud." Protect your eyes and never have any portion of your body directly over fireworks.

Clear the lighting area: Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area at least 25 feet from people, houses, vehicles, dry leaves, grass and flammable materials. When you are done, be sure to soak your fireworks before disposing of them. Always keep a hose or bucket of water close by to extinguish any small, unintended fires. If clothes catch fire, remember to cover your face and STOP, DROP and ROLL until the fire goes out.

Keep your pets safe and secure indoors: Be sure to keep your pets indoors with curtains and windows closed. Be sure your pet's collar is secure and license tag is current. If your pet is not currently licensed, get a license before fireworks go on sale June 28. If your pet gets loose, the license will help get your pet home and allow emergency medical care, if needed. If your pet goes missing, check with the Humane Society for Southwest Washington at (360) 693-4746.

Be a good neighbor: Pick up spent fireworks and dispose of them properly once they have cooled. Soaking used fireworks overnight in a bucket of water before placing them in the trash is a good idea. They should not be left in the street for sweepers, nor should they be left in rights-of-way.

Leave it to the experts: Visit a local celebration. The new Independence Day at Fort Vancouver presented by Bank of America will feature historic events and a fireworks display. Hours are noon to 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 online at www.fortvan.org; \$7 at the gate for 13 and older.

More information can be found on the following websites:

- <http://www.vanfire.org>
- Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese language versions of Vancouver legal dates of use and curfews are available at:
<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/fire.asp?fireID=20444&fireSub=20455&itemID=21608>
- <http://www.clark.wa.gov/commdev/firemarshal/fireservices/fireworksN.html>