



NEWS RELEASE

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(Hillsboro Patrols Will Look for Illegal Fireworks)

Joint patrols of Hillsboro Police Officers and Fire Inspectors will be out in force on Friday and Saturday nights during the July 4th holiday weekend looking for illegal and modified fireworks. Citizens are reminded that Oregon Law prohibits the possession and use of illegal fireworks, defined as those that fly, explode or shoot projectiles. Citizens in possession of illegal fireworks face citations resulting in fines of up to \$500.00 per occurrence and possible additional charges of reckless endangering and disorderly conduct. Illegal items include: M-80s, cherry bombs, bottle rockets, Roman candles and firecrackers. Legal fireworks are described as snakes, sparklers, fountains and spinning ground wheels. Hillsboro City codes also prohibit the use of public property, such as parks and school facilities, for the purposes of using any type of fireworks without a permit.

As an additional financial incentive, homeowners are reminded that many insurance policies will not cover damage caused by willfully violating a law that results in property damage. Parents may be held financially responsible for the action of their children if property damage or injuries result from improper use of fireworks. Anyone in possession of modified fireworks may face felony charges of possessing and/or manufacture of an explosive device.

Even legal fireworks are capable of starting fires and causing injury. Follow these tips for a safer holiday:

- Only adults should handle fireworks.
- Use legal fireworks only outdoors on hard or paved surfaces, away from trees, shrubbery or any dry vegetation.
- Have a pail of water or garden hose nearby.
- Dispose of spent fireworks in a metal bucket partially filled with water.
- Remember, even sparklers burn at 1800 degrees or higher and can cause devastating burns.

For the safest celebration, attend a public fireworks demonstration put on by professionals around the Metro area. For more fire and life safety information, visit: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire or call 503-681-6166, and for periodic updates on activities at Hillsboro Fire Department, visit our blog at www.hillsborofire.blogspot.com.

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Photo Captions: Illegal fireworks confiscated from the 2008 Fireworks Enforcement patrols.