



SAFE & SANE FIREWORKS USE, SAFETY, & SOBERING STATISTICS

Fireworks season is upon us. Have fun, be safe! Here is key information about City of Sebastopol Sale and Use of Legal Safe & Sane Fireworks for 2016:

- The only type of fireworks permitted for Sale and Use are Legal "Safe & Sane" Fireworks, State Fire Marshal Approved Pyrotechnics (Safe & Sane)
- Seven Days of Sales & Use, from June 28 thru midnight July 4
- Zero Tolerance for Illegal Fireworks
- Three Non-Profits are authorized to sell within the City limits

Here are some safety tips and some interesting statistics: With

the very low humidity that we typically have in Sebastopol, the high temperatures and the fuels in our landscapes and around our homes, fire can start and grow very quickly. So if you have a small fire, it can get large very quickly, unless you put it out fast. Act.

Nationally, in 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires, including 1,200 structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated eight reported deaths, 40 injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage. In 2012, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,700 people for fireworks-related injuries. 55% of 2012 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities, and 31% were to the head. The risk of fireworks injury was highest for young people ages 15-24, followed by children under 10.

On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause of fires. The good

news is you can enjoy your holiday and the fireworks, with just one simple safety tip: Leave fireworks to the professionals. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.

If you do use fireworks at home, know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting. A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Never give fireworks to children. Wear safety glasses. Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away. Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area, away from buildings and vehicles. Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water. Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby. Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers. Do not experiment with homemade fireworks. Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.



Fourth Annual Sebastopol Police Citizens Academy Seeks Participants

The fourth annual Sebastopol Police Department Citizens' Police Academy will be held on Thursday evenings in September and October.

The sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude about 9 p.m. each night. Prior registration is required.

The Citizens' Police Academy is an opportunity to interact with Sebastopol Police employees in an informal setting and to learn more about the justice system in Sonoma County.

Attendees will meet the Sonoma County Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Chief Probation Officer, the CHP area commander, a Superior Court Judge and many other justice system partners.

This is a rare opportunity to learn more about the justice system.

Additionally, participants will tour the Family Justice Center, the Sheriff's Office and the County Jail, and the Santa Rosa Junior College's Public Safety Training Center.

To learn more, please call dispatcher Zina Keeran at (707) 829-4400 or email her at zkeeran@sebpd.com

Prepare for an Early Fire Season

Parts of the west have been subject to raging wildfires, burning areas for the first time in decades. In addition to rural areas, there have been

devastating fires crossing over into urban neighborhoods.

In light of drought conditions, high temperatures, and low humidity, the City of Sebastopol Fire Department is asking residents to prepare early this year in creating defensible space.

Particularly if your home is in a semi-rural part of Sebastopol, here is what you should do to protect your family, home and community: Maintain 100 feet of defensible space around all structures. Clear all needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters. Trim branches at least six feet from the ground. Landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants that require little water. Remove branches away from roofs and 10 feet from the chimney. Use trimming, mowing and powered landscape equipment before 10 a.m., and not on hot, windy days. Keep woodpiles and other flammables at least 30 feet from the home.

For more information on preparing for wildfires and creating a defensible space, visit www.FireSafeSonoma.org or CAL Fire's www.ReadyForWildFire.org If you have further questions, please call the Sebastopol Fire Department at (707) 823-8061.

New City Budget Adopted

On June 21, the City Council adopted the new Fiscal Year Budget. Highlights include:

Maintenance of core services programs/operations, while continuing to operate within our means; Funding of additional departmental needs to maintain and improve core services; Meeting and exceeding General Fund reserves objectives; Continuing to address long-term unfunded obligations such as pension liabilities and deferred vehicle replacement costs; Funding of Capital Improvement Projects including major arsenic treatment projects, ADA upgrades and road improvements. The City is on a solid financial track.

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