

Fireworks in Clark County

Clark County Council Work Session
October 18, 2017

History of Fireworks in Clark County

- ▶ Clark County has a history of following the state law for fireworks use:
 - June 28th through July 5th
 - December 31
 - In the 1990's, the county disallowed use on December 31st
 - In 2009, use on July 5th was eliminated

History of Fireworks In Clark County

- In 2016, further modifications were made for use
 - July 4th use only south of 219th Street
 - June 28th through July 4th allowed north of 219th Street
 - December 31st was allowed county-wide
- Because state law allows for jurisdictions to restrict fireworks sales and use dates, the county and cities have differing restrictions

Washington State Fireworks Law

- ▶ RCW 70.77
 - Allows a jurisdiction to limit or prohibit the sale, purchase, possession, or use of consumer fireworks
 - Any local modifications to the state code shall have an effective date no sooner than one year after their adoption

All Jurisdictions and Fireworks Use

Fireworks Legal Discharge Times

	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	Dec. 31
Unincorporated Clark County North of 219 th Street	Noon – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. - midnight		6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Unincorporated Clark County South of 219 th Street							9 a.m. - midnight		6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Amboy	Noon – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. - midnight		6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Battle Ground	Noon – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. - midnight	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Camas						9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. - midnight		6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
La Center		10am - 10pm	10am - 10pm	10am - 10pm	10am - 10pm	10am - 10pm	10 a.m. – 11 p.m.		
Ridgefield	Noon – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. - midnight	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	9 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Vancouver	It is illegal to use fireworks within Vancouver city limits.								
Washougal							9 a.m. - midnight		6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Woodland	Noon – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. - midnight	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Yacolt	Noon – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	9 a.m. - midnight	9 p.m.	6 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Public Education Efforts

Legal use of fireworks

Refer to the [Fireworks Use Map](#) for fireworks discharge days and times in unincorporated Clark County. You may need to click the refresh button to see the map below.

505 NW 179TH ST

Map Editor

NW 179th St NE 179th St

South of NE 219th St Fireworks Use Times

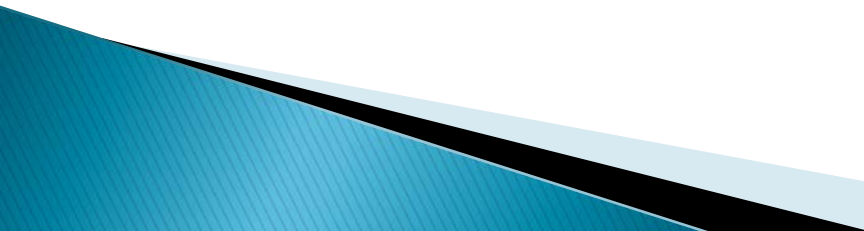
July 4, 9am-midnight

December 31, 6pm-1am

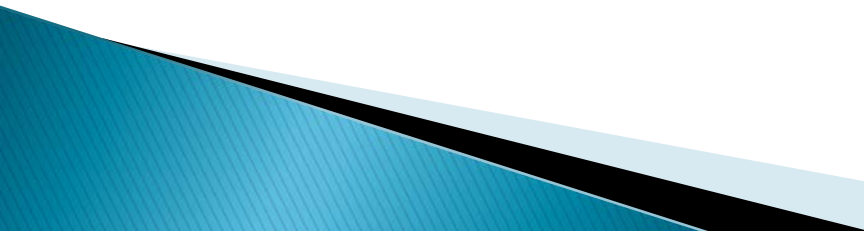
County of Clark, Oregon Metro, Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon GE... Powered by Esri



Public Education Efforts

- ▶ Print, television, radio media releases and interviews
 - ▶ Flyers, signage, and handouts at the fireworks stands
 - ▶ On line information and tool established for public to use, regardless of jurisdiction
 - ▶ August 23 meeting with retailers / wholesalers
 - ▶ For 2018, roadside reader boards have been reserved
- 

Current Fireworks Picture

- ▶ 43 fireworks stands located in the unincorporated county
 - ▶ Number of stands based on population – 1 stand for every 5,000 people based on year-end population estimate by Clark County Assessment and GIS
 - ▶ Permits belong to organizations or individuals
 - ▶ No requirement for ‘not-for-profit’ status
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Program Resources

- ▶ Approximate Annual FMO staff hours

Administrative work: 65 hours

Includes tracking intents, lottery (if needed), applications, filing, calls, reviewing plans for compliance with state and local laws, etc.

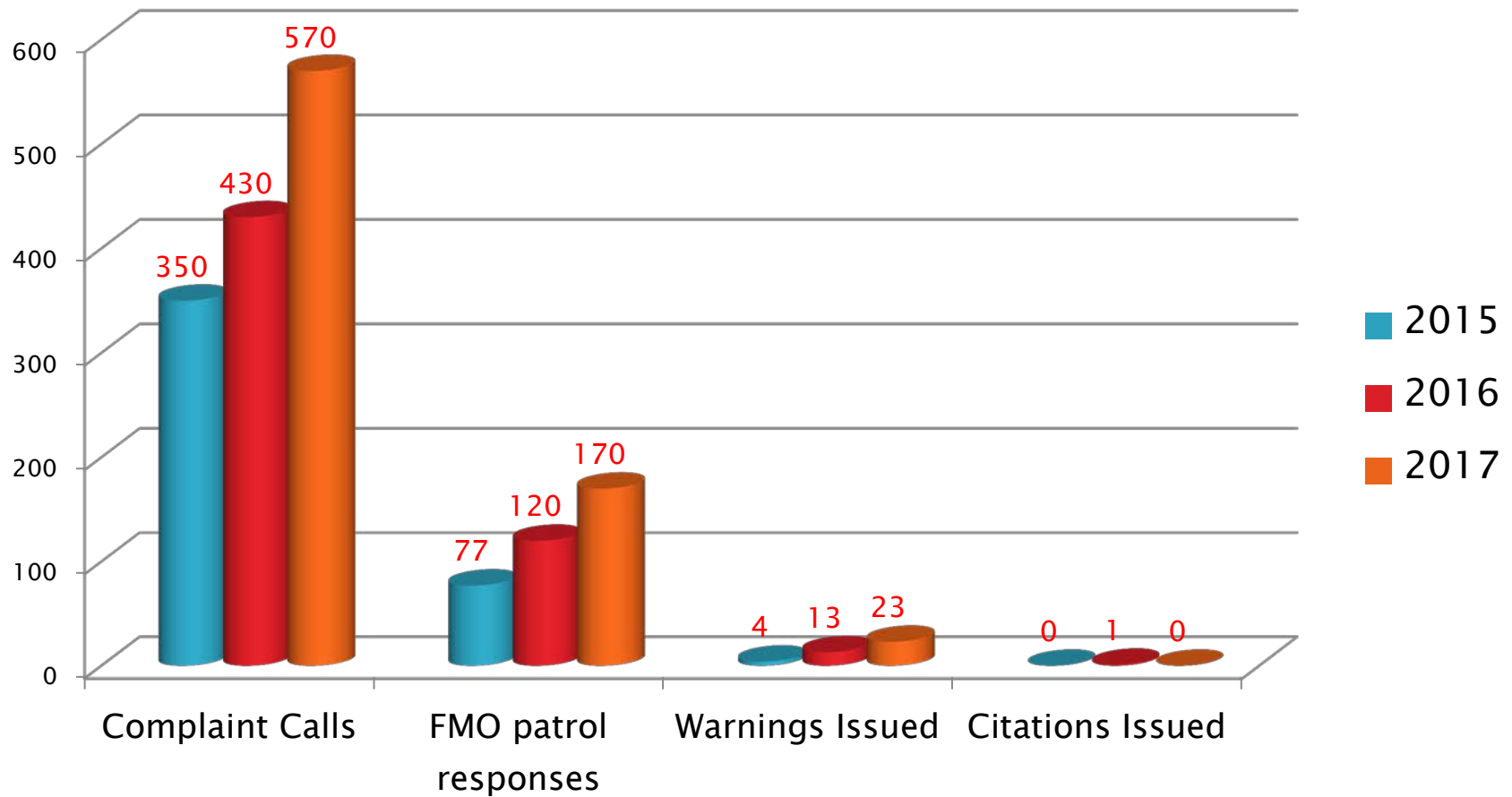
Enforcement work: 135 hours

Includes tent inspections, clean-up inspections, and after-hours patrols (approx. 75 OT hours)

Total Annual Cost: \$9,000 to \$10,000

Fireworks Complaint Calls

Complaints received 6-28 through 7-5



Enforcement

- ▶ Per CCC 5.28, the Fire Marshal is designated as the enforcing officer
- ▶ Assistance from the Clark County Sheriff's Office
- ▶ Laws limit our ability at times
 - Have to see the violator light the fuse

Hold a property owner / occupant responsible for actions occurring on the property?

Hold an adult responsible for the actions of a juvenile?

Fireworks–Related Fires and Injuries

- ▶ Fire incidents generally involved vegetation (grass, brush, decorative hedges)
- ▶ 2016
 - 31 Fire Incidents
 - One involved a structure where the roof collapsed, injuring a firefighter
- ▶ 2017
 - 28 Fire Incidents
 - One igniting decorative hedge that significantly damaged a residence
 - One igniting the exterior of a home due to improperly disposed fireworks

Fireworks–Related Fires and Injuries

- ▶ Fire injuries as reported by hospitals
- ▶ 2015
 - 22 Injuries
- ▶ 2016
 - 18 Injuries (reported by hospitals)
- ▶ 2017 – data not complete

Fireworks Types Allowed



Celebrate Safely Fireworks Campaign

WASHINGTON STATE LEGAL CONSUMER FIREWORKS FOR SALE IN TENTS AND STANDS PER RCW 70.77.136

Cylindrical Fountain

Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect, is produced.



Helicopters, Aerial Spinners

A propeller or blade is attached, which, upon ignition, lifts the rapidly spinning device into the air. A visible or audible effect is produced at the height of flight.



Cone Fountain

Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect, is produced.



Smoke Devices

Tube or sphere containing pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces a white or colored smoke as a primary effect.



Roman Candles

Heavy paper or cardboard tube containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, up to ten "stars" are individually expelled at several-second intervals.



Parachutes

Upon ignition, one or more parachutes are propelled into the air with stars, smoke, and other effects being discharged as the parachute floats downward.



Wheels

Pyrotechnic device attached to a post or free by means of a nail or string. A wheel may contain up to six "driver" units; upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect.



Mine/Shells/Cakes

Mine – An aerial device that shoots stars into the sky in an upward spray pattern. Shell – A shell is an aerial item that is fired into the sky. Cake – Dense-packed collection of mine/shell tubes that are fused together.



Ground Spinners

A small device similar to a wheel in design and effect. When placed on the ground and ignited, a shower of sparks and color is produced by the rapidly spinning device.



Reloadable Mortars

A shell consisting of a container, a lift charge, a time fuse, a burst charge, and stars/effects. The lift charge propels the shell out of the tube igniting the burst charge at the right altitude, igniting the effects.



Dipped Stick, Sparkler

Stick or wire coated with pyrotechnic composition that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition. Total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed 100 grams per item.



Novelties

"Trick and Novelty Devices" means any small firework device not classified as a Consumer of Display Firework. Items contain a small amount of pyrotechnic composition that is friction sensitive.



** Pictures shown are for illustrative purposes only and are not an endorsement of any brand or style of consumer firework.

5070-420-009 (R 5/17)



FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU – PREVENTION DIVISION
(360) 596-3946 FAX: (360) 596-3934
E-Mail: Fireworks@wsp.wa.gov



Firework Types NOT Allowed

Which fireworks are illegal in our state?

These are listed as Consumer Fireworks but are illegal to sell, possess, and/or discharge within the State of Washington. They are legal to sell, possess, and/or discharge on tribal lands.

Firecrackers

Generally 1/4" x 1 1/2" or less that come in packs to large bricks. A firecracker makes a single "pop" sound. Many firecrackers strung together will make repetitive "popping" sounds.



Bottle Rockets

A firecracker type (tube) attached to a 12" long wooden stick. The stick is placed in a bottle and once lit, it rises into the air, travelling laterally before exploding.

Sky Rockets and Missiles

Similar to the Bottle Rocket, a Sky Rocket is attached to a stick or has fins and may have a plastic cap. A missile will have fins rather than a stick. Once lit, it ascends rapidly, high into the air where it explodes.



Illegal explosive devices are often wrongly referred to as fireworks because they look like large firecrackers, but they can have as much explosive power as a 1/4 stick of dynamite.

Do not handle explosive devices!!

If possible, have the local bomb squad evaluate and pick up the device.

Possession, manufacturing, or using illegal explosive devices is a **criminal offense** in Washington.

Call the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3946 for additional information.

Mass-produced Homemade Devices Example: M-80's, M-100's, etc.



Homemade Explosives Example: Pipe Bomb & Tennis Ball Bomb



Altering consumer fireworks making an explosive device Example: Sparkler Bomb



Safe and Sane Fireworks

- ▶ What are 'safe and sane' fireworks in Oregon?

LEGAL FIREWORKS

Includes: Cone Fountains, Cylindrical Fountains, Flitter Sparklers, Ground Spinners, Illuminating Torches, and other similar items.

Novelty Items: Only smoke or ash or make a small noise, such as Smoke Bombs, Party Poppers, Snakes, etc.

Safe and Sane Fireworks

- ▶ What is NOT a 'safe and sane' firework in Oregon?

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Includes: Fireworks which explode, fly into the air, or travel more than 6 feet on the ground or 12 inches into the air. These pose a significant risk to life and property.

**Illegal fireworks may be turned in at any area fire station.
No citation or fines are issued to people turning these in.**

Solid Waste Program

▶ See handout regarding the challenges with fireworks debris

Fireworks: Impacts on the Solid Waste System

Fireworks are explosives.

Explosives are not accepted at the transfer stations or at the household hazardous waste facilities.

Used fireworks are less dangerous, but residues on used fireworks make the material at transfer stations more ignitable and dangerous when within the waste and recycling. Additionally used fireworks are not recyclable.

Transfer Stations

- Fireworks are not accepted at the facilities, but they do sneak into self-haul and curbside loads exposing workers and the facilities to a higher risk of fire and explosion.

Collection System

- Curbside carts and dumpsters can catch fire
 - Photo, right: Smoldering dumpster from July 5th, 2017.
- Collection trucks can catch fire
 - <http://katu.com/archive/discarded-fireworks-spark-garbage-truck-fire-11-19-2015>
 - Material collected is compacted in the truck during collection. Fireworks could be exposed to an ignition source in the truck, or the pressure and heat from the truck could cause ignition.



Recycling Stream

- Recycling contamination is already an issue in Clark County, but is exacerbated by fireworks that are primarily made of paper and plastic pieces that are not recyclable. These materials have a chance to be pulled out by workers, but likely they will be baled with good materials of mixed paper and plastics, reducing the marketability of those bales of recyclables.
- Photo, below: Recycling cart overflowing with firework waste from July 5th, 2017.

Avoiding Risk

- Even if a firework is soaked in water, there is still the potential for it to dry out and be explosive again. Carts and dumpsters can sit for weeks before they are picked up, providing time to dry out.
- Unfortunately tracking the source of a fire in the solid waste system is difficult and often impossible. There is no data for how many incidents have occurred. However, reducing the risk of fires and recycling contamination is a goal of the solid waste system.



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Questions?

