



TO: Mitch Nickolds, Community Development Director
FROM: Jonathan Dunaway, Fire Marshal
DATE: September 24, 2019
RE: 2019 Fireworks Season

This is a summary of the 2019 fireworks season for unincorporated Clark County.

Public Outreach / Education

As you know, 2019 was the first year of the new county ordinance making fireworks use legal county-wide on July 4th only. Before, the county had different rules to the north and south of 219th Street.

In preparation for the season, the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) facilitated a number of proactive initiatives intended to educate the public about the change in fireworks laws that became effective this year.

- We worked with fireworks wholesalers to produce uniform signage at all stands (see attached), showing the fireworks laws, safety information, and penalties
- Wholesalers also created a flyer to hand out with each fireworks purchase, outlining fireworks laws, safety information, and penalties
- Media releases to print, TV, and radio outlets – which resulted in several interviews that received air time
- Emphasized the use of Clark County's interactive map for fireworks use
- Outreach via the web pages for Clark County and the FMO
- The placement of 3 roadside reader boards at busy intersections displaying a message "FIREWORKS IN CLARK COUNTY – JULY 4TH ONLY 9AM TO 12AM"

Enforcement

As we have for many years, the FMO had two-person vehicles patrolling each evening from June 28th through July 5th. When fireworks were observed being used outside of the legal dates / times or when dispatched by the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (9-1-1), personnel would respond to the area to investigate. For 2019, we implemented a couple of enhancements in our process:



- The FMO worked with the CCSO Guild to have CCSO Reserve Deputies working with us patrolling and taking calls from 9-1-1. We developed a short course of instruction that was delivered to the Reserve Deputies, covering the laws, fireworks recognition, civil citations, and the work flow specific to fireworks enforcement. Each evening, between 1 and 3 CCSO Reserve vehicles were added to the FMO staff. This allowed for between 4 and 8 vehicles to be out patrolling each night.
- For safety and efficiency, every FMO vehicle patrolling was staffed with two people equipped with computer terminals (similar to law enforcement vehicles) and complaint calls were taken off of a queue established by 9-1-1. This allowed for less radio traffic, dispatch knew where we were and what we were doing, and we could provide a disposition code for each response.
- Of the 325 complaint calls, this group responded to 193 calls for service.
 - 141 UTL or complaint condition didn't exist when we arrived
 - 33 Persons advised or warnings given
 - 19 Citations issued

Fires

Clark County fire districts were requested to send any incidents that were believed to be related to fireworks to the FMO so that we could report to the Council a total of fire or medical calls in the unincorporated areas. Those responses we received are indicated below:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • East County Fire & Rescue | 0 incidents |
| • Clark County Fire District #3 | No report |
| • Clark County Fire District #5 (VFD) | 9 grass / brush fires (county and city) |
| • Clark County Fire District #6 | 6 natural vegetation fires |
| • Clark County Fire District #10 | 0 incidents |
| • Clark County Fire & Rescue | No report |
| • Clark County Fire District #13 | 0 incidents |

Additionally, the CCFMO responded to 6 fire investigations during the season for the following types of incidents:

- 2 incidents where fireworks (mortars) were thrown at houses – called in as complaints / no fire department response required
- 2 incidents where portable toilets at a construction site were damaged by explosions using fireworks (or improvised fireworks)
- 1 vehicle fire at a wrecking yard caused by a mortar-type device
- 1 explosion with injury – manufacturing personal fireworks (not related to consumer fireworks)

Revenue / Cost of Enforcement

Permits for fireworks stands brought in the following revenue:

• 42 fireworks tent permits @ \$256	\$10,752
• <u>1 fireworks stand permit @ \$100</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>
• Total Permit Revenue	\$10,852

This permit revenue was enhanced for 2019, thanks to the meetings held last year with the fireworks stakeholders (including jurisdictions and industry). It was at these meetings that all parties agreed to the added permit fees for tents being used as fireworks sales locations.

An estimate has been assembled for the total cost of the fireworks season, based in large part on time sheet information. The following costs include time spent receiving, organizing, holding a lottery, plan review for fireworks stands, inspections of stands, and even enforcement patrols.

• 79 regular time hours	\$3,167
• <u>152.75 overtime hours</u>	<u>\$7,116</u>
• Total Cost	\$10,283

NOTE: This does not include Permit Center staff time, Code Enforcement staff time, cost for Hearings Examiner and hearing time, and fire investigation time by FMO.



KEEP IT SAFE AND LEGAL



UNINCORPORATED CLARK COUNTY

FIREWORKS CAN ONLY BE USED ON:
JULY 4TH - 9:00AM TO MIDNIGHT
DECEMBER 31ST - 6:00PM TO 1:00AM

- USING FIREWORKS OUTSIDE OF THE ALLOWED DATES AND TIMES WILL RESULT IN A CIVIL FINE. FINES START AT \$500 PER VIOLATION.
- ONLY USE FIREWORKS PURCHASED FROM STATE LICENSED VENDORS.
- ONLY USE FIREWORKS AS THEY WERE INTENDED. USE OF ILLEGAL, ALTERED OR IMPROVISED IS DANGEROUS AND PUNISHABLE BY FINES AND/OR JAIL TIME.
- KNOW YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND BE COURTEOUS TO ALL NEIGHBORS, ELDERLY, VETERANS, AND PETS.
- HAVE A WATER HOSE/FIRE EXTINGUISHER READY AT ALL TIMES. SOAK ALL FIREWORKS WITH WATER AFTER USE. NEVER PLACE USED FIREWORKS IN OR NEAR YOUR HOME.

FOLLOW FIREWORKS USE LAWS IN YOUR AREA

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON LOCAL FIREWORKS
LAWS VISIT
WWW.CLARK.WA.GOV/FIREWORKS

