



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

07-01-19

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

1540 Hrs.

For Immediate Release PST
Jonathan Baxter 415 – 558-3404 (d)
415 – 660-0545 (c)

***SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIREWORKS SAFETY INFORMATION***

Joint media availability by the San Francisco Fire Department, Police Department, and National Parks Service on this topic will be provided on 07-02-2019, starting at 2pm. The event will take place at 698 Second Street, San Francisco, CA. 94107 (San Francisco Fire Department Headquarters main lobby). All media and public are welcome to attend.

As the 4th of July celebratory events are upon us, the San Francisco Fire Department is reminding all residents and visitors that San Francisco has zero tolerance for the use and sale of all fireworks.

SOME FACTS:

- Each year more than 12,000 fireworks-related injuries, half of them children, are treated in hospital emergency rooms.
- More than 25% of the children injured by fireworks are innocent bystanders.
- Something as simple as a sparkler burns at temperatures of up to 1,800 degrees! That's hot enough to melt gold.
- Firework accidents cause millions in property loss each year.
- **MUNICIPAL CODE SEC. 1290. DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS PROHIBITED.**
"No person or persons, firm, company, corporation or association shall fire or discharge any fireworks of any kind or description within the limits of the City and County of San Francisco. Provided, however, that public displays of fireworks may be given with the joint written consent of the Fire Marshal and the Chief of Police".

Possession of fireworks such as skyrockets, bottle rockets, roman candles, aerial shells, firecrackers, and other types that explode, go into the air, or move on the ground in an uncontrollable manner can lead to a possible fine or jail time in the county jail. Even “Safe and Sane” fireworks, such as firecrackers and sparklers, are illegal.

San Francisco has an official free public fireworks display starting at 9:30 PM. The fireworks will be launched from barges near Pier 39 and Aquatic Park. Large crowds are expected to view the shows along the waterfront and use of public transportation is encouraged. Remember to come prepared for cold weather.

Information for Treasure Island (TI) residents:

- Public viewing from TI western shoreline is not encouraged this year.
- On-Island parking and viewing area is extremely limited due to development construction.
- TIDA encourages visitors to visit the Port of SF and the San Francisco waterfront for fireworks viewing.

Information on reporting fireworks:

The San Francisco Fire Department strongly urges San Franciscans to keep themselves and their neighborhoods safe this year. If reporting fireworks we encourage you to call (415)-553-0123 only if you can **see the suspect(s) lighting illegal fireworks, be able to give a description of the individual, and provide an exact location.** If you feel that life and/or property is in immediate danger, call 911.

Information on reporting noise:

We are aware of the noise generated by fireworks and encourage you **not** to call 911 to report the noise. Your Police and Firefighters are out in the field working on mitigating these complaints. If you feel it is necessary to call, we encourage that complaints about noise be directed to the Police non-emergency number at: (415)-558-0123.

Information on response to emergencies:

In addition to being fully staffed to respond to daily calls for service, your public safety teams from the San Francisco Fire Department, San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management, and the Department of Public Works will be staffing several Task Forces comprised of the following:

- Police Officers
- Police Permit Officers
- Firefighters
- Fire Inspectors
- Street Cleaners
- Street Sweepers

These Task Forces will participate in high-profile community engagement in an effort to reduce the use of fireworks, injuries, property damage, and reduce the garbage left on neighborhood/City streets. The Task Force will encourage those they encounter to view the City provided fireworks display, confiscate fireworks, and if needed, take appropriate legal action against offenders.

Stay informed, and do your part to help keep the 4th of July fun for everyone:

Please keep 911 available for people with police, fire, or medical emergencies. Sign up for emergency text alerts from AlertSF. Simply text your San Francisco zip code to 888-777. For citywide alerts, text AlertSF to 888-777.

For additional safety information and fun events in San Francisco, please check the links provided:

<https://www.sftourismtips.com/fourth-of-july-san-francisco.html>

<http://m.kidshealth.org/en/parents/fireworks.html?WT.ac=>

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/news-and-resources-fireworks-safety.aspx>

http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/4thofjuly.pdf



Fireworks Safety

Fireworks are often used to mark special events and holidays. However, they are not safe in the hands of consumers. Fireworks cause thousands of burns and eye injuries each year. People can enjoy fireworks safely if they follow a few simple safety tips:

BE CAREFUL!

- » Be safe. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts.
- » Do not use consumer fireworks.
- » Keep a close eye on children at events where fireworks are used.

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

NFPA is opposed to consumer use of fireworks. This includes sparklers and firecrackers. Even sparklers burn hot enough to cause third-degree burns.



FACTS

- ! Fireworks cause an average of almost 20,000 reported fires per year.
- ! In 2013, sparklers caused 41% of fireworks injuries.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169