



**PUGET SOUND
REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**
INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED FIRE AGENCY
Jim Schneider Fire Chief

*Professionally and
compassionately helping people*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Have a Safe and Enjoyable 4th of July

Kent, Wash – June 27, 2017 – Unseasonably warm weather as we approach the 4th of July holiday means that ground conditions are ripe for brush and grass fires that can be caused by fireworks, campfires, and discarded cigarettes.

Locally, there are two cities which will no longer allow fireworks to be sold or discharged at any time. Kent and Maple Valley have both passed ordinances forbidding fireworks that go into effect this 4th of July holiday. The City of SeaTac has banned fireworks for several years.

Unincorporated King County and the City of Covington allow the sale and discharging of fireworks. In these areas, sales begin June 28th, but discharging is only allowed on July 4th between 9:00 am and midnight.

Your firefighters strongly encourage residents and visitors to find out whether it is legal to discharge fireworks before doing so. Violators of fireworks bans can face a \$250 fine.

If you are in an area that allows the discharging of fireworks, please follow these basic rules:

1. Only purchase and discharge legal fireworks. Keep in mind that many of the fireworks you buy on Reservations are not legal in Covington and other areas.
2. Always have a garden hose, bucket of water, or fire extinguisher nearby while discharging fireworks.
3. Always discharge fireworks under adult supervision. Remember that fireworks and alcohol consumption *do not* safely mix.
4. When lighting fireworks, wear eye protection and only discharge one firework at a time. Place discharged fireworks in a bucket of water.
5. Do not discharge fireworks where ground conditions are dry and the danger of fire is higher.

Unused legal and illegal fireworks can be dropped off at any Puget Sound RFA fire station for disposal.

Please keep in mind that if you call 911 to report the discharging of fireworks, there may be a delay for non-life or property threatening incidents, especially on the 4th of July due to high call volumes.

Consider going and watching one of the many free professional fireworks displays on the 4th.

We hope you have a safe 4th of July as we celebrate the 241st birthday of our country.

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Serving the Communities of Covington, Kent, SeaTac & Fire District 37 • pugetsoundfire.org