

MEDIA RELEASE



San Rafael



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independence Day 2012

June 26, 2012, San Rafael, CA – It's almost the Fourth of July, a time to celebrate and enjoy the holiday with friends and family. It's also a good time to remind residents that all fireworks are illegal in Marin County.

"Every year we respond to people who sustain injuries from fireworks," said San Rafael Fire Chief Chris Gray. "We are also concerned about the extremely dry conditions and the possibility that just one spark from a firework could create a major wildland blaze."

Within the last two weeks there have been multiple wildland fires in Marin County, including the vegetation fire on June 14, 2012 where fire burning in dry brush rapidly advancing up the steep hillside towards homes located on Via La Cumbre in Greenbrae. The recent fires are a reminder to all hillside property owners that it is time to clear flammable vegetation and to create defensible space zones so as to reduce the risk of wildfire damaging your home.

The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 5-9 or 10-14 as for the general population.

Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for 36% of the emergency room fireworks injuries in recent years.

It's illegal. You risk fines and imprisonment. There are wonderful fireworks shows to attend. Stay safe this year.

Fireworks can Kill You.

A report on fireworks was issued by the National Fire Protection Agency in June of 2009. The executive summary of the report stated, "In 2007, 9,800 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. The highest injury rates were for children aged five to nine and 10 to 14. In 2006, an estimated 32,600 reported fires were started by fireworks. These fires resulted in six civilian deaths, 70 civilian injuries and \$34 million in direct property damage. The risk of fire death relative to exposure shows fireworks to be the riskiest consumer product."

In short, using fireworks can lead to injury or death.

The most common injury involves burns.

Some of the most recent statistics are chilling:

In 2010, 8,600 people were injured and required medical care as a result of fireworks

In 2009, there were 18,000 + fires caused by fireworks, with more than \$38 million in direct property losses as a result.

More than half (50%) of the injuries were burns - a lifelong change for anyone who suffers burns

Two of five (42%) people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15

The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 5-9 or 10-14 as for the general population

An estimated 1,200 injuries were associated with sparklers and 400 with bottle rockets

Courtesy US Fire Administration, 2012

All fireworks are illegal in Marin County.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to go to the Marin County Fair, June 30 to July 4 at 9:30 p.m.

Here are a few links to view to make sure you have a safe and happy Fourth of July 2012.

<http://marinfair.org/events-a-attractions/fireworks>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVcF7uD3eIA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZebhvXmouw>

http://docs.cityofsanrafael.org/Fire/Fire_Administration/Press_Releases/Fireworks_2012_2.pdf

http://docs.cityofsanrafael.org/Fire/Fire_Administration/Press_Releases/Fireworks_2012_1.pdf