



## NEWS ADVISORY

June 29, 2023

For immediate release

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### CITY ASKS RESIDENTS TO COMPLY WITH FIREWORKS LAWS

The City of Missoula, along with our partner agencies in the Missoula County Fire Protection Association, ask Missoula residents to keep everyone safe by refraining from the use of fireworks.

The use of most fireworks in the city of Missoula is illegal. Fireworks are prohibited on open space lands, all U.S. Forest Service lands, in City and County parks and County-managed recreation areas and at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks fishing access sites. This includes Fort Missoula Regional Park.

In addition to concern about fire danger, City and County staff receive numerous public complaints each year that fireworks frighten and disturb neighbors, upset pets, upset veterans and cause injuries.

The Fireworks Report Line is open 24 hours a day during the holiday period through July 5. It is operated by the emergency dispatchers at the City-County Office of Emergency Management's Missoula 9-1-1 Center. **To report violations, call 258-4850. The report line will operate through July 5.** Police officers and Fire Department personnel will respond to as many complaints as possible. Firefighters as well as police officers have the authority to issue citations. The penalties are \$100 plus court costs for a first offense and \$300 plus court costs for a second offense during the same calendar year.

Professional public displays, which are allowed by permit from the Missoula Fire Department chief, are done safely at pre-determined times and are short in duration. Public displays in Missoula will be held on Friday, June 30, and Saturday, July 1, at the civic stadium following the PaddleHeads baseball game. For information, visit the PaddleHeads website at

<https://www.gopaddleheads.com/landing/index>. Southgate Mall will not sponsor a fireworks show this year.

The Missoula City Council amended the fireworks ordinance in 2014 to allow the sale and discharge of “novelty” fireworks in the city. These include sparklers, party poppers and other small fireworks. Visit the City website for a complete description:

<http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1763/Fireworks>

The City of Missoula Communications office is distributing information about fireworks use through radio advertising; information on the City website; City social media; and news coverage.

**For interviews, contact:**

Charity Stubb at the Missoula Fire Department at 552-6192 can arrange interviews with Fire Marshal Dax Fraser and Assistant Fire Marshal Adam Sebastian.

**For questions on fire conditions:**

Max Rehholz, Missoula County Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management, 258-3633

**For Police Department questions:**

Whitney Bennett, Public Information Officer, 552-6290

**For questions about Missoula County:**

Allison Franz, Communications Manager, 258-3161

**For fire conditions restrictions and related information:**

<https://www.mtfireinfo.org/> Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

<https://mcfpa.org/> Missoula County Fire Protection Association

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