



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Tuesday, June 30, 2015

July 4th

## **Celebrate legally and safely!**

**PORT ORCHARD, Wash.** -- The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with county fire agencies, strives to insure that Independence Day celebrations are conducted with an emphasis on safety and adherence to local regulations and state law concerning the handling and discharge of fireworks.

Sheriff's deputies will enforce state law in the unincorporated areas of the county with regard to the discharge of **legal** fireworks.

Kitsap County Code 10.48.010, signed by the Board of County Commissioners in 2007, became effective February 26, 2008 and remains the current county policy concerning the discharge of fireworks.

**The discharge of illegal fireworks in any unincorporated area of the county is prohibited.**

### **Fireworks discharge**

**Legal consumer fireworks** may be used in the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County as follows:

- Saturday, July 4, 2015                      11 a.m. – 11 p.m.

No other dates for the discharge of fireworks are authorized. A violation will incur a Notice of Infraction fine of \$250.

**Of note:** as of June 22, 2015, the distribution, sale or use of Sky Lanterns is prohibited. A Sky Lantern is any unmanned device with a fuel source that incorporates an open flame in order to make the device airborne.

Source: **Kitsap County Code 14.04.725**

### **Legal consumer fireworks**

Sparkler	Smoke device
Cylindrical fountain	Combination items
Cone fountain	Roman candle
Illuminating torch	Helicopter aerial spinner
Wheel	Mine / shell
Ground spinner	Flitter sparkler

### **Fireworks legal only on tribal land**

Firecrackers  
Bottle rockets  
Sky rockets / missile type rockets

These are legal to possess and discharge on tribal lands. These items are illegal in Washington State and become illegal fireworks to possess off of tribal lands.

### **Illegal explosives**

- Dynamite
  - M 80s
  - M 100s
  - Cherry bombs
- The above are considered illegal explosives.
  - Tennis balls, pipe bombs, “special” or homemade fireworks, or any legal fireworks that have been modified from their original manufacturer’s configuration are considered improvised explosive devices.
  - Illegal explosives and improvised explosive devices are prohibited by law. Possession of these explosives or devices is a felony.

## **Enforcement**

Sheriff's deputies will respond and investigate when there is an immediate threat to public safety.

Situations involving illegal explosives or improvised explosive devices will be investigated; the explosives will be handled in accordance with appropriate safety protocols, operations procedures and regulations.

RCW 70.77.485: Unlawful possession of fireworks. Misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor, depending on the weight of the fireworks (exclusive of packaging).

RCW 70.77.488: Unlawful discharge or use of fireworks. Gross misdemeanor.

RCW 70.74.022: Possession, use, manufacture, transport, store, etc., of illegal explosives, components or improvised explosive devices. Felony.

## **Celebrate safely with the "Three B's"**

Independence Day is a time to celebrate our freedom. With this freedom comes a shared responsibility to ensure the safe use of *legal* fireworks:

- Every year fireworks injure people and cause vegetation and structural fires.
- Kitsap County, as well as all of Washington State, is currently experiencing a significant period of high weather temperatures, which has caused drier than normal conditions affecting green belts areas, forests, grasses and other ground vegetation.
- The Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management recently issued a fire warning due to extremely dry conditions and the governor has declared a statewide drought.

## **Before lighting fireworks -- *Be Prepared!***

Purchase only legal fireworks, available at licensed stands. Purchase only the quantity that you will use. Ensure the safety of pets. Keep a bucket of water nearby in which to place all used fireworks. Have a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby to put out stray sparks. Clear a level area away from things that can burn. Have a basic first aid kit nearby and a cordless or mobile / cellular telephone in case emergency assistance is required. Children should know how to "stop, drop and roll" if their clothing catches on fire.

**When lighting fireworks -- *Be Safe!***

Only adults should light fireworks. Use eye protection, wear safety goggles. Light one at a time and move away quickly. Keep spectators at a safe distance. Use fireworks only outside. To prevent injuries, follow the directions on the label carefully.

Be considerate of your neighbors, family pets and your environment.

**When finished -- *Be Responsible!***

Clean up all debris when finished. Duds can be dangerous; if a firework item does not light or fire, an adult should wait five minutes, approach it carefully and place it in a bucket of water. Make sure that used fireworks, matches and lighters are out of sight and reach of children.

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