

Idaho Falls Police Department

News Release

July 1, 2011

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For Immediate Release:

The Idaho Falls Police Department has no objection to residents celebrating the Fourth of July with fireworks -- it's all a part of the holiday fun.

But we ask residents to be aware of the rules -- particularly when it comes to illegal fireworks -- and to be considerate of their neighbors.

Under city code, the use of illegal or banned fireworks within city limits is punishable by law and anyone discharging these fireworks could face up to six months in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine. The following fireworks are considered "Dangerous fireworks":

- Firecrackers, cannon crackers, giant crackers, salutes, silver tube salutes, cherry bombs, mines, ground bombardment, grass-hoppers and other explosive articles of similar nature;
- Blank cartridges;
- Skyrockets and rockets, including all similar devices employing any combustible or explosive material and which rise in the air during discharge;
- Roman candles, including all devices which discharge balls of fire into the air;
- Chasers and whistles, including all devices which dart or travel about the surface of the ground during discharge;
- Snakes and hats containing bichloride of mercury;
- Sparklers more than ten inches (10") in length or one-quarter inch ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") in diameter;
- All articles for pyrotechnic display such as aerial shells, salutes, flash shells, sky battles, parachute shells, mines, Dago bombs and similar devices;
- All torpedoes which explode by means of friction, or which contain arsenic and all other similar fireworks devices, including cracker balls;
- Fire balloons or balloons of any type which have burning material of any kind attached thereto;
- Toy cannons which use a combustible or explosive substance for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect.

The Fire Marshal also has authority to approve or disapprove various community events involving pyrotechnics and seize illegal or unauthorized fireworks and explosives.

Specifics regarding public and private firework displays can be found in Sections 6-2-1 and 33 of the city code.

The police department understands the frustration with the noise and seemingly endless disregard for current laws by some of our citizens.

Officers are working to assure that residents are obeying the law. However, this time of year we are inundated with fireworks calls along with our usual call load and in most cases we arrive after the violation has taken place and are unable to write a citation.

Under Idaho Statutes, a misdemeanor must occur in a police officer's presence in order for us to file a charge. Because of the Statute we give warnings to people when we arrive after the violation has occurred.

Residents can help police hold people accountable for breaking the law. Idaho Statutes do provide for a citizen to file a charge against another if they have seen the violation, can identify the violator, and are willing to testify in court. An officer can help guide you through that process.

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Follow the law

For the complete fireworks ordinance for Idaho Falls, visit www.ci.idaho-falls.id.us and click on "City Code -- Online" in the online services menu.