



Bexar County Fire Marshal

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Bexar County Fire Marshal Urges Residents to Use Fireworks Safely

Firework sales allowed in areas of unincorporated Bexar County this New Year's

While there are no restrictions or bans on the sale or use of fireworks in unincorporated areas of Bexar County, Fire Marshal Chris Lopez asks residents to follow simple safety guidelines when it comes to the personal use of fireworks. Residents who use consumer fireworks should follow these tips to avoid causing injuries and damage to property:

- Only use fireworks outdoors. Select an area free of dry grasses and other dead vegetation.
- Keep a bucket of water or a water hose nearby to extinguish a fire should one start.
- Do not use fireworks when the weather forecast calls for winds above 10 mph.
- Always read and follow manufacturer's recommendations and instructions.
- Have an adult present and never give fireworks to children.
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks. Make sure you only use fireworks purchased from a reliable licensed seller.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework. If a firework does not work properly, wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water and dispose of it properly.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Do not shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- Wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.

It is illegal to discharge fireworks within 600 feet of a hospital, sanitarium, veterinary hospital, school or church; and within 100 feet of a fuel dispensing station for flammable or combustible liquids; and to discharge fireworks at or from a motor vehicle.

Lopez also reminds residents that arson charges can be brought against a person who recklessly causes a fire, regardless of the person's intent. Residents of San Antonio should be reminded that it is against the law to possess, use or transport fireworks in the City of San Antonio without a permit. Violations are Class C misdemeanors, punishable by fines from \$100 to \$2,000.

The Bexar County Public Safety Communications Center will operate a fireworks hotline from Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017 through Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. Residents in unincorporated Bexar County who see unsafe or illegal uses of fireworks should call 210-335-FIRE. Medical emergencies or fires caused by fireworks should be reported by calling 911.

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