



## **Bexar County Commissioners Court**

San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

210.335.2555

210.335.2926/fax

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**June 28, 2019**

**Contact:** Eric Maldonado

210.335.0073/o

210.449.1569/m

### **Bexar County Fire Marshal's Office and ESD 2 Join Together to Urge the Public to Use Fireworks Safely this Fourth of July**

The fireworks sales period for the Fourth of July officially began Monday, June 24 and will run through the holiday without restrictions on the sale or use in unincorporated Bexar County.

While suburban cities, including the City of San Antonio, ban the use of fireworks within the city limits, they are permitted in the unincorporated areas of the county. However, both agencies urge the use of caution and advise residents to use them as directed.

"Safe fireworks do not exist, even sparklers, which are considered by many to be harmless, can reach temperatures in excess of 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. Losing your home or having a family member seriously injured because of a fireworks accident would be disastrous. Be fire safe and have a plan in place," stated Bexar County ESD No. 2 Fire Chief Ralph Rodriguez. "We want everyone to enjoy their Independence Day celebration, but precautions need to be taken, and taken seriously if you're planning on setting off your own fireworks."

The Bexar County Fire Marshal's Office offers the following tips for residents who use consumer fireworks to avoid causing injuries and damage to property:

- Select an area free of dry grasses and other dead vegetation.
- Keep a bucket of water or a water hose nearby.
- 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.
- Only use fireworks outdoors. It is against state law to shoot fireworks from a motor vehicle.
- 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.

Within unincorporated Bexar County, 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.

The Fire Marshal's Office also wants to remind residents that arson charges can be brought against a person who recklessly causes a fire, regardless of the person's intent.

The Bexar County Public Safety Communications Center will operate a fireworks hotline from Sunday, June 30 through Friday, July 5. 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.

For information about the potential fire danger within Bexar County, or on wildfire risk and outdoor burning guidelines, please visit the Fire Marshal's Office webpages at <https://www.bexar.org/630/Fire-Marshall>.

###