



SAFE AND SANE 4TH OF JULY TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE OUR COMMUNITY SAFER



As we approach the 4th of July holiday weekend and prepare for our patriotic celebrations, we encourage all to take a few extra minutes to think about personal safety and protecting our environment. The Costa Mesa Fire and Police Departments ask you and your business to help keep our community safer and cleaner this 4th of July holiday.

There are a number of service groups, youth sports and philanthropic organizations that need the support of the community. These organizations take the time to fulfill the requirements and the responsibilities to sponsor a fireworks stand in our city. The proceeds from the sale of fireworks supplement the much-needed financial support for youth programs and community outreach in our city. They will sell only *Safe and Sane* fireworks approved for use by the city and that bear the *State Fire Marshal's Seal of Approval*. Sales begin on June 30th to July 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and July 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. to persons 18 years and older. Discharge of safe and sane fireworks in 2011 are allowed on **July 2nd, 3rd and 4th** beginning at 4:00 p.m. and concluding at 10:00 p.m. Safety for life and property is a priority for everyday, but taking a few extra precautions this 4th of July holiday will help keep our Costa Mesa families, neighbors, pets safe and our city beautiful!

The Costa Mesa Fire and Police Departments offer these safety hints:

Select and inspect your home display area in the daylight hours. Clear away debris and combustibles. The viewing area setup should be at least 20 feet away from the firework display area. The display area should be out of the public right away and as close the curbside as possible. By keeping the display area out of the street, emergency vehicles can pass safely. Since all storm drains lead to the ocean; fireworks should be cleared and disposed of so that they are not swept into the storm drain system.

Use a piece of drywall or sheetrock to protect pavement or grass area. Have a water source, like the garden hose, nearby. Keep a water filled bucket ready for spent fireworks. Submerge the spent fireworks and allow for cooling completely before disposing in the trash receptacle. An adult must be present at all times during the discharge of fireworks. Close windows and lock vehicle doors to prevent vandalism or damage. Fireworks may be discharged between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Fireworks displays are **not permitted** in the city's parks, any public parking lots or any area of school property. Illegal fireworks are those that are purchased outside the state, over the Internet or from someone's car or garage. Selling illegal fireworks is a felony. Possession of just one illegal firework is a misdemeanor and punishable by fine or imprisonment.

How can you tell if fireworks are illegal? Look for identifiers: if the firework can leave the ground or explode in the air it is illegal. Illegal fireworks include those described as cherry bombs, bottle rockets, mortars, aerial shells, M-80's and firecrackers. Illegal fireworks can also easily be identified by the lack of a seal of approval from the California State Fire Marshal. Remember, if the firework leaves the ground and expels into the air, **IT IS ILLEGAL IN COSTA MESA**— report those persons who are selling these kinds of fireworks – it could save someone from an injury or from the loss of property. If you have questions about firework use in Costa Mesa, please contact the fire prevention office at (714) 327-7400 or to report active illegal firework use, (714)754-5252. Have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July holiday weekend.

