



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Illegal Fireworks are Dangerous

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko issued a public service announcement today advising our community of the dangers and potential consequences of illegal fireworks, as we celebrate this 4th of July weekend. All fireworks are illegal in Ventura County with one exception: fireworks classified as “Safe and Sane” are allowed only in the City of Fillmore. Remember, even if you purchase fireworks legally elsewhere (Fillmore, other counties, or states) it is illegal to use or possess them outside the city limits of Fillmore.

Each year illegal fireworks start destructive fires nationwide. Ventura County is currently experiencing severe drought conditions, and just one illegal firework could result in a massive fire in our community. Illegal fireworks can cause severe burns and serious injuries to those who possess them, as well as innocent bystanders. Also, some of our most vulnerable neighbors, including minors, the elderly and our honorable veterans suffering from PTSD can be traumatized by fireworks. Finally, sudden loud noises from fireworks oftentimes scare neighborhood pets who run away and are reported missing.

Please be aware there are serious legal consequences for violating laws pertaining to illegal fireworks. In addition to local ordinance violations, possession or use of fireworks can be a misdemeanor or felony under California Health and Safety Code §§ 12305-12702 and Penal Code §§ 18710-18740. Violators can face jail time for misdemeanors of up to one year, and up to three years for felonies. Also, depending on the seriousness of the violation, fines may be imposed ranging from \$500 to \$10,000.

There are several professional fireworks displays available throughout Ventura County for our

community to safely enjoy with friends and family. A list of available professional fireworks displays can be found at

<https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/special-reports/outdoors/2021/06/26/independence-day-heres-where-you-can-see-local-parades-and-fireworks/7771212002/>

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.