



City of Salinas

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PRESS RELEASE

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ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

\$1250 Fine for Possession or Use of Illegal Fireworks

The Salinas Fire Department and the Salinas Police Department are teaming up to combat the possession, use, and sale of illegal and dangerous fireworks in the City of Salinas. Special enforcement teams will be deployed on the July 4th holiday to patrol city streets and take action against those who violate the law with these dangerous items. Administrative fines starting at \$1250 will be levied against any person discovered with these fireworks in violation of Salinas City Code Chapter 13A.

Illegal and dangerous fireworks pose a significant health and safety risk to those who possess and use them. Misuse of dangerous fireworks can cause serious injury and death. Annually, the Salinas Fire Department responds to an average of 50 fires around the 4th of July holiday that are caused by fireworks. Some of these fires have resulted in thousands of dollars in property loss.

The Salinas City Code authorizes the sale and use of state fire marshal approved “Safe and Sane” fireworks within the city limits. Safe and Sane fireworks minimize the threat of injury or fire when used appropriately. Safe and Sane fireworks may be sold and used legally within the City of Salinas starting at 12:00 P.M. on June 28, 2010 and ending at 10:00 P.M. on Monday, July 5, 2010. Sale of Safe and Sane fireworks requires a permit issued by the City of Salinas. Acquisition of Safe and Sane fireworks from an authorized vendor in the City of Salinas also provides financial support to non-profit organizations in and around the City that support our local youth.

Residents are reminded that the use of Safe and Sane fireworks is permitted on private property only. Use of any fireworks is prohibited on city streets or sidewalks and in city parks. Persons using fireworks should ensure that they are clear of dry grass, brush, fences, and buildings. Misuse of Safe and Sane fireworks could lead to a fine of not less than \$1000 and confiscation of the fireworks.

The City of Salinas is proactively addressing the use of dangerous and illegal fireworks to help provide a healthier and safer community. We encourage all of our residents to enjoy the 4th of July holiday responsibly.