

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Celebrate Safely This Fourth of July by Knowing Local Fireworks Laws

To enjoy a safe and joyous July 4th for everyone, the CAL FIRE San Mateo- Santa Cruz Unit would like to point out some of the rules surrounding fireworks.

First, there are only four cities within San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties that allow fireworks. **In Santa Cruz County, those locations are Capitola and Watsonville and in San Mateo County, Pacifica and San Bruno.** These cities allow “Safe and Sane” fireworks for personal enjoyment and celebration on the 4th. **In all other parts of San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties, fireworks are not permitted and individuals possessing fireworks are subject to citations, confiscation of fireworks, and further legal action.**

Violations could carry a fine of \$1,000 or more per occurrence. Laws within the Health and Safety Code that govern fireworks are misdemeanor crimes in the State of California and could lead to arrest. To help everyone enjoy the 4th, please ensure you are enjoying fireworks in permitted areas only. Ensure your fireworks are “Safe and Sane” with the proper seal and exercise proper precautions when enjoying fireworks. Better yet, we encourage the public to go to the legal professional shows in the area instead of using fireworks. **There are no aerial fireworks that are legal in the State of California for use by the public.**



Each year, there are numerous fires and injuries that are caused by the public’s use of fireworks statewide and fire danger is an ever-present reality. **If a fire starts due to fireworks, the individual responsible is civilly and potentially criminally liable.**

We in the CAL FIRE San Mateo- Santa Cruz Unit wish you a Happy 4th of July.

