



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## Wheat Ridge Police Will Strictly Enforce Fireworks Policies Over July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. June 18, 2018** - As the July Fourth holiday approaches, the Wheat Ridge Police Department wants to make residents aware that all fireworks, including fountains and sparklers, are illegal within city limits.

Section 5.86 of the International Fire Code adopted by Wheat Ridge in 2012 prohibits fireworks and establishes punishment for violations in the form of fines, jail time or both. Anyone in possession of fireworks in the City of Wheat Ridge will be cited into Municipal Court, and may face a fine of up to \$999, up to a year in jail, or both. If the illegal use of fireworks causes serious bodily injury or damages property, more serious felony charges could be applied.

Historically the Wheat Ridge Police Department receives a high call volume related to complaints concerning the use of illegal fireworks. The increase in call load can impact the response time for more urgent calls involving human safety. As in year's past, the department will have extra officers on duty specifically for fireworks enforcement the weekend prior as well as on July Fourth.

"Although many people think fireworks are harmless and a traditional part of the annual holiday, the threat of fires is very high in Colorado," stated Wheat Ridge Police Chief Dan Brennan. "The risk of personal injury or damage to property from illegal fireworks is also high. People who use illegal fireworks are financially liable for any damages. In addition, children, veterans, and pets are often extremely sensitive to the loud noise that accompanies fireworks which can create anxiety and fear."

"The number of complaints about fireworks that we receive requires the police department to have extra officers on duty during the holiday," continued Brennan. "Calls like these take away from our time to respond to more serious issues. We want residents and visitors to enjoy the July Fourth holiday but we also want them to be safe. I would encourage everyone to enjoy fireworks by attending one of the professional July Fourth celebrations held throughout the Denver-metro area."

The Arvada Fire Protection District, West Metro Fire Rescue and the Fairmount Fire Department will have staff on call to respond to any emergencies. Arvada Fire and West Metro Fire will be accepting surrendered fireworks with "no questions asked" at all fire stations.

For any questions regarding the use of fireworks in Wheat Ridge, please call the Crime Prevention Office at 303-235-2910.

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