



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Wheat Ridge Police Will Strictly Enforce Fireworks Policies Over July 4th Holiday

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. June 23, 2021 - As the July Fourth holiday approaches, the Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD) wants to make residents aware that all fireworks, including fountains and sparklers, are illegal within city limits.

Section 5.86 of Wheat Ridge City code 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.

Anyone seeing or hearing fireworks being used is asked to NOT call 911. The number of calls about fireworks made to 911 dispatchers can mean a significant delay in responding to serious crimes or to those experiencing a life-threatening emergency.

Now through July 4, callers in Jefferson County can report illegal fireworks using the fireworks hotline number 303-980-7340 between the hours of 7:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Special call takers will be on duty to take fireworks calls. After July 4, residents can call the non-emergency number 303-237-2220, #1.

In order to issue a citation for illegal fireworks, WRPD needs evidence to identify who was actually setting them off. Often when officers respond there are burn marks on the pavement and firework residue but the person who set them off is nowhere to be found. Photos or video as the fireworks are actually being lit would enable officers to issue tickets.

“Although many people think fireworks are harmless and a traditional part of the annual holiday, however, they are illegal in the City of Wheat Ridge,” stated Wheat Ridge Police Chief Chris Murtha. “The threat of fires is also already very high in Colorado as is the risk of personal injury or damage to property from illegal fireworks. 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.”

“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,” continued Murtha.”

For a list of places to watch fireworks this year [Denver Metro shows here](#). 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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