



For Immediate Release

July 1, 2016

REMINDER: Stay Safe During 4th of July Celebrations: Avoid Illegal Fireworks and Celebratory Gunfire

Oakland, CA — The Oakland Police Department and Fire Department are working together to plan for a safe 4th of July in the City of Oakland. We want everyone to celebrate this Independence Day safely. In this spirit, we would like to remind everyone of the dangers and penalties associated with celebratory firearm discharges and the use of illegal fireworks. Setting off illegal fireworks and shooting guns can put you and the people you love at risk for injury and even death. Illegal fireworks and celebratory gunfire should have no place in our City's Independence Day festivities.

As a part of our commitment to public safety, quality of life, and vitality in our communities, the Oakland Police Department is focused on stopping illegal gun use. During the holiday, the Department will increase staffing and deploy patrol officers to key areas of the City with the highest amount of gunshot and firework activity as indicated by ShotSpotter activation and data collection from last year.

Celebratory Gunfire = Jail

- Officers will arrest anyone caught discharging a firearm.
- Report celebratory gunfire by calling **911** (by cell phone, **(510) 777-3211**).

Fireworks = Fines

- Illegal fireworks, hot weather, and increased fire danger also increase the risk of injuries and fatalities. Officers who observe illegal fireworks will enforce the law as well as focus on prevention and education.
- People caught with fireworks can be fined up to \$1,000. Penalties for possession of large quantities of fireworks include fines ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and imprisonment.
- Report fireworks by calling the Fireworks Tip Line: **(510) 777-8814**. A recording is set up and checked frequently. On the 4th of July, a call taker will be available.

Fireworks Collection Barrels

To help get illegal fireworks off the street, the Oakland Fire Department has set up fireworks collection barrels at the following fire stations:

- Station 1: 1603 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
- Station 3: 1445 14th Street
- Station 4: 1235 East 14th Street
- Station 5: 934 34th Street
- Station 18: 5008 Bancroft Avenue
- Station 20: 1401 98th Avenue



City of
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More Information Is Available

- An English, Spanish, and Chinese language flyer with more information about illegal fireworks and where you can safely turn them in is available at:

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK059459>

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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