

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INFO: Emily Hopkins, PIO, 925-941-3505;
Richard Carpenter, Fire Marshal, 925-381-2113
Supervisor Federal Glover, 925-427-8138

Supervisor appeals to public for reduced fireworks activity

"With over 1,000 wildfires raging in California this week, this is a particularly dangerous year for fireworks," said Supervisor Federal Glover.

"Our firefighters are already stretched thin providing mutual aid to other counties," he said. "I urge people to cut down on personal fireworks because of the possibility of starting fires."

All consumer fireworks are illegal in Contra Costa County. Although some other California cities and counties sell fireworks, the county ordinance makes sale or possession of any type of fireworks a violation of the law. Sale, possession or discharge of fireworks is illegal, constitutes a misdemeanor, and is a violation of Section 442.002, Contra Costa County Ordinance 7219.

Consumer fireworks are all fireworks other than those used/displayed by a State licensed professional used at an approved location.

"This year especially, there is no such thing as 'safe and sane' fireworks," said Glover.

"The Fourth of July is a particularly busy day for fire services all across the country. More fires are reported on a typical Fourth of July than on any other day of the year, and fireworks account for half of those fires more than any other cause of fires," said Fire Marshal Richard Carpenter.

In some communities, some people celebrate by firing their guns into the air. "Every year it seems the firing of weapons increases," said Vicki Zumwalt, chair of the Bay Point Municipal Advisory Council. "It is a danger to our citizens."

According to national reports, fireworks caused an estimated 1800 total structure fires and 700 vehicle fires reported to fire departments in 2005. These fires resulted in \$39 million in direct property damage.

The NFPA report said US hospital emergency rooms treated more than 9,000 people for fireworks related injuries in 2006.

Firefighters of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District are putting up posters in their communities to remind everyone that no fireworks of any kind are legal in Contra Costa County.

"Each year our firefighters battle blazes and respond to injuries that don't need to occur. Fireworks in untrained hands are an accident waiting to happen," said Carpenter
"People should leave fireworks to the professionals and celebrate by enjoying professional displays put on by trained individuals," said Carpenter.

To report illegal fireworks or weapons being fired in the air, call local law enforcement agencies (police or sheriff). If you or someone you know has fireworks for disposal, call your

local police department or the Fire District main office at 925-941-3300 for instructions.
Please do not take fireworks to a fire station.