



Community Notification

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wheat Ridge, CO — FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Wheat Ridge Police Will Be Strictly Enforcing Fireworks Policies

Wheat Ridge, CO ~ As the 4th of July holiday approaches, the Wheat Ridge Police Department wants to make all residents aware of the city's laws against the use of fireworks. All fireworks, including fountains and sparklers, are illegal within city the city limits. Section 5-86 of the Wheat Ridge Code of Laws 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 greatly impact the response time to more urgent, human safety calls. As in year's past, the department will have extra officers on duty specifically for fireworks enforcement over the 4th of July weekend.

Although many people think fireworks are harmless and traditional, the threat of fires is very high in Colorado. The risks for damage to property and personal injury from illegal fireworks is very high. People who use illegal fireworks are also financially liable for damages. In addition, many pets are extremely frightened by fireworks activity.

"The number of fireworks complaints that we receive requires the police department to add extra officers on duty," said Wheat Ridge Police Division Chief Jim Lorentz. "Calls like these take away from our time to work on more serious issues. We want our citizens to have a fun 4th of July, but we also want them to have a safe holiday. I would encourage everyone to take in one of the professional planned Fourth of July celebrations held throughout the Denver-metro area."

The Arvada Fire Department, West Metro Fire and the Fairmount Fire Department will have extra staff on call to respond to any emergencies. West Metro Fire will be accepting surrendered fireworks from citizens with no questions asked at fire stations located at 3880 Upham Street and 10901 W. 38 Avenue. "The police department is taking a proactive enforcement stance against the illegal use of fireworks in our community." adds Division Chief Lorentz, "Our officers will issue summonses, when appropriate, for any and all violations of the fireworks ordinance. That includes possession, use, storage and sale of fireworks within the City of Wheat Ridge."

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

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"Exceptional People Providing Exceptional Service"
Wheat Ridge Police