



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2017

MEDIA CONTACTS

ENFORCEMENT-RELATED QUESTIONS

Fort Collins Police Services
General Media Line
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FIRE-RELATED QUESTIONS

Poudre Fire Authority
General Media Line
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ANIMAL-RELATED QUESTIONS

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Larimer Humane Society
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Hey, Fort Collins! Trade in your sparklers and fountains for summer snacks and festive frivolity this July 4, because use of all fireworks is illegal all the time within the city.

Possession and storing of fireworks within the City of Fort Collins limits are also prohibited. A violation could result in a fine up to \$2,830. Representatives from Fort Collins Police Services and Poudre Fire Authority will be out on fireworks patrol on and around July 4.

Each Fourth of July, thousands of people -- most often children and teens -- are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks, which include burns, fires and even death.

Between July 2-7 in 2016, UCHHealth treated 48 patients (down from 54 in 2015) with fireworks-related injuries in its emergency departments at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland and the UCHHealth Emergency Room on Harmony Road in southeast Fort Collins. Among those, the most common were head, foot and face burns and injuries.

Nationwide, in 2015, fireworks were involved in an estimated 11,900 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments. Of those, an estimated 1,900 emergency department-treated injuries were associated with sparklers and 800 with bottle rockets, according to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data.

Poudre Fire Authority also investigated multiple fires around the holiday that



were determined to be started by fireworks. One such fire burned approximately 2 acres on July 4, 2016, at Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area in southwest Fort Collins.

Fireworks are also disruptive to pet and neighbors, including many of our veterans with PTSD. Each year, Fort Collins dispatchers receive hundreds of fireworks complaint calls on July 4.

Loud, crowded fireworks displays are no fun for pets, which can become frightened or disoriented by the sounds. Please resist the urge to take them to Independence Day festivities, and opt instead to keep them safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area at home, as advised by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. More animals run away from home on July 4 than any other day of the year, according to the Larimer Humane Society.

So if lighting off your own fireworks isn't an option in Fort Collins, how can you and your family celebrate? Leave fireworks to the professionals, and attend the Independence Day displays across the region.

The City of Fort Collins, Fort Collins Police Services, Poudre Fire Authority, Animal Protection and Control, and our partner agencies wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday. And remember: Please leave the fireworks to the pros.

Independence Day activities

Firecracker 5K

When: Ray-day registration starts at 6:15 a.m.; citizen's race at 7:30 a.m.

Where: Run the beautiful course in City Park and Mountain Avenue

More info: www.firecracker5k.com

City of Fort Collins parade

When: 10 a.m., July 4

Where: The parade will travel eastbound on Mountain Avenue, between Jackson Avenue and Meldrum Street.

More info: www.fcgov.com/july4th

City of Fort Collins fireworks display

When: Approximately 9:35 p.m., July 4

Where: City Park. Live music begins at 4:15 p.m. The professional display and will begin at about 9:35 p.m. over Sheldon Lake.

Things of note: Pets, alcohol and personal fireworks are not permitted in City Park. For a complete list of Fourth of July community activities.

More info: www.fcgov.com/july4th