



## **Illegal Fireworks Put A Dud In Fourth of July Holiday**

*SSFR & SSPD Offer Tips for Celebrating Holiday Safely*

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-June 29, 2023**-As we gear up to celebrate Independence Day across the county, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue and the Steamboat Springs Police Department would like to share some reminders about fireworks and firework safety.

“Last year, an estimated 11,500 people were injured due to fireworks or sparklers; and fireworks started an average of 18,500 fires,” said Fire Chief Chuck Cerasoli. “We’re asking everyone to ground any plans to put on their own fireworks show and extinguish the use of all illegal fireworks.”

Permissible fireworks in Steamboat Springs are non-explosive and are not intended to leave the ground. Specifically, these are small firework devices that produce audible or visual effects through combustion, such as: fountains, ground spinners, illuminating torches, dipped sticks and sparklers, toy propellants, trick noise makers that crackle or whistle (but don't explode), and tube devices. Individuals (16+) are permitted to use and possess legal fireworks.

Fireworks that explode or leave the ground are illegal in Colorado, including Steamboat Springs. Illegal fireworks include (but are not limited to): firecrackers, rockets (including bottle rockets), roman candles, cherry bombs, and mortars & similar items, such as M-80s.

In Steamboat Springs, unlawful use of fireworks (those that leave the ground or make a loud report); is a petty offense punishable by up to \$300 and/or up to 10 days in jail.

“With things drying out, wildfires become more probable, and one tends to forget that unexpected fireworks can be detrimental to some of our veterans, individuals with noise sensitivities and many of our four-legged friends,” commented Police Chief Mark Beckett. “We strongly urge neighbors to refrain from lighting the fuse on illegal fireworks as we will be out actively citing offences.”

With loud noises, like fireworks, the shelter receives numerous stray animals. The Humane Society suggests leaving your pet at home, especially during loud, crowded events like the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. Ensure your pet is always wearing an identification collar and/or a microchip with current contact information.

The city is donating a significant number of fireworks to neighboring community firework shows again this year. Professional firework shows are scheduled for Steamboat Lake, Craig, and Yampa.

-WeServeTheCity-

### **Contact**

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**NO LAUNCH ZONE**



**FIREWORKS PROHIBITED**