



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 28, 2021**

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(Bremerton, WA) **Celebrate Safely, Kitsap!**

### **SAVE 9-1-1 CALLS FOR TRUE EMERGENCIES**

Citizens should only call 911 for a fireworks complaint during the upcoming Fourth of July holiday if they face an immediate danger or life-threatening situation. This allows callers with true emergencies to reach 911 when needed. In previous Fourth of July holidays, high volumes of non-emergency calls has overwhelmed the Kitsap 911 system.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE DURING FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY**

During the busy Fourth of July holiday, law enforcement agencies sometimes must delay or suspend their response to non-emergency requests for service. Protecting lives and preserving property are the highest priorities.

**Law enforcement agencies within Kitsap County will not** be responding to firework complaints that pose no imminent threat to life or property. This allows law enforcement personnel to be available for emergency responses.

### **To report a fireworks complaint that poses a threat to life or property, call 911.**

Examples of these types of fireworks complaints are:

- Someone is injured from a firework
- There is a fire started by a firework
- You witness someone attempting to start a fire with a firework
- You witness someone assaulting someone with a firework

**If you wish to report nuisance fireworks complaints**, you may do so online @ <http://www.kitsap911.org/fireworks>. This information will be relayed to the appropriate jurisdiction for review and statistical analysis after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

Examples of what to report online:

- Loud fireworks
- Fireworks outside time limits
- Fireworks upsetting animals
- Potentially illegally fireworks heard

### **SKYROCKETING FIRE DANGER ADDS TO FIRE OFFICIALS' CONCERNS ABOUT CONSUMER FIREWORKS USE**

Consumer fireworks cause nearly 20,000 fires annually in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's latest annual report on fireworks says that these products caused over 9,000 emergency room visits in 2018. In 2020, fireworks were the cause of 360 fires and 237 injuries in Washington State.

This year, fire officials say that the fire risks are far greater than usual with continued warm and dry weather forecast through the holiday weekend. While escaped controlled fires are the leading cause of wildland fires year-round, fireworks are to blame for the majority of these incidents around the Fourth of July.

Kitsap County Fire Chiefs Association (KCFCFA) are anticipating an exceptionally busy holiday weekend and hoping to reduce the impacts by urging the public to forego private fireworks. In another effort to limit ignition sources, the Kitsap County Fire Marshal has already implemented a [Phase I Fire Danger Burn Ban, effective June 26](#)

Fireworks rules vary between cities and unincorporated areas as well as on local tribes' reservations. To verify what rules apply, see the [Kitsap County Fire Marshal's website](#). The City of Bainbridge Island has permanently banned all consumer fireworks, and other jurisdictions may impose emergency bans if conditions continue to worsen.

KITSAP 911 provides 9-1-1 call receiving as well as dispatching for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical and animal control services in the Kitsap County region, including unincorporated Kitsap County, the cities of Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard and Poulsbo and the Suquamish and Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribes.