



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to providing excellent public service and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community and one another. We live, act, and serve our community with the utmost integrity.

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 2, 2022
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KFD# 22-06445

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind everyone that fireworks remain illegal in Kennewick in 2022. Despite local laws prohibiting their use in 2021, four fireworks-related fires occurred in Kennewick.

Fireworks-related incidents most often occur on the Fourth of July. In 2021, the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office received numerous reports of fireworks-related incidents reported by hospitals, clinics, and fire agencies:

- 70 injuries reported
- 842 fires reported due to fireworks use, resulting in a loss of \$4,585,140
- 23 injuries were due to someone being hit by fireworks and/or debris
- 19 injuries were classified as burns.

The majority of injuries occur between 9 p.m. and midnight, with top causes being:

1. Holding or throwing fireworks
2. Hit by fireworks and/or debris
3. Lighting or relighting fireworks
4. Leaning over fireworks

A FREE public fireworks show is being offered at Columbia Park as *The River of Fire Festival* returns to Kennewick on July 4, 2022. This year's activities include a kids zone, Food Truck Alley, beer garden, and live entertainment provided by Fast Lane and Stomping Ground. Parking opens to the public at noon and the fireworks display from the barge starts at 10pm. This is a safe and family-friendly opportunity to celebrate our nation's independence watching a professional-grade fireworks show.

If you choose to enjoy consumer fireworks outside of Kennewick, please do so in a safe and responsible way by following these simple tips:

- Know the fireworks laws in the area you intend to purchase and discharge fireworks
- Be Prepared – Buy only legal fireworks and have water nearby while lighting, and keep pets indoors.
- Be Safe – Only adults should light fireworks. Never light fireworks in your hand and never use them indoors. Only light one firework at a time.
- Be Responsible – Clean up fireworks debris and soak used fireworks. Keep matches and lighters away from children.

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Next year, the rules governing fireworks in Kennewick are changing. Starting in 2023, fireworks such as sparklers and fountains will be legal. Until then, please enjoy the Fourth of July safely and in accordance with local rules.

Happy Independence Day!

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