



Thurston County Sheriff's Office

"Creating a Safer Community Together."

Sheriff Dan Kimball

Community Alert

Date: July 1st, 2009

Neighborhood/ Area:Countywide

Nature of alert:Independence Day Safety

Details:The upcoming weekend represents a time for family and friends to gather and celebrate our country's independence. This celebration involves fireworks, outdoor activities and spending time in and around our county's waters. Sheriff Kimball wants to share some information and thoughts on these issues to help us all celebrate safely.

-FIREWORKS: Firework safety is extremely important. Each year, we experience injuries up to and including death as a result of mishandling fireworks and/ or the use of illegal devices. Use only those fireworks known to be "safe and sane" and only use them in accordance with their written directions.

Except for certain city ordinances, safe and sane fireworks are allowed throughout Thurston County in accordance with Washington state law during the following days and times:

July 3rd and 4th 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

The city of Lacey prohibits the sale and discharge of fireworks within the city limits. Prohibited fireworks include those that are typically referred to as safe and sane, including sparklers. Novelty devices such as snakes, glowworms, and party poppers are permitted. Licensed public displays are not affected.

Safe and Sane fireworks may be used in the Cities of Olympia and Tumwater on July 3 and 4, between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Yelm, Tenino, Rainier and Bucoda follow the same state guidelines as Thurston County.

Safety Tips: Use legal fireworks
 Discharge in a safe area with water close by
 Use outdoors only

Do not re-use or attempt to ignite “duds”

Considerations: Keep pets safe

Be considerate of your neighbors and their pets

Clean up your used fireworks

During the few days leading to and the few days following, there will be violations of these laws. There will also be an increase in the more serious calls for service that law enforcement will be responding to. We are asking the public to have some patience with the nuisance fireworks complaints and understand that, even if calls are made to the 911 center, we will likely not respond to many. Reports of injuries will be responded to.

-WATER SAFETY: With the warm, sunny days here, it is again time to remember some water safety tips. On a boat, there must be one wearable life jacket on the boat for each person on the boat. These life jackets must be in good condition and fit the wearer properly. On boats under 19', kids 12 and under must wear their life jacket at all times the boat is underway. This rule applies to all boats, no matter the size, type, or what body of water they are on (rivers included).

A good practice is to have young children who have not demonstrated proficient swimming skills wear a life jacket at all times they're in or around the water. It only takes a moment for someone to slip under the surface of the water, and typically there are no calls for help or splashing to attract attention.

All boating accidents must be reported to the Sheriff's Office, so if this happens to you, remember to dial 911, regardless of the severity.

From everyone here at TCSO, have a safe and happy 4th of July weekend!!

Photo (if necessary/ available):N/A

Contact info:N/A

Crime prevention tips:

N/A

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