



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hughson City Council Directs Staff to Craft Illegal Firework Regulation

Enforcement and Education Efforts to Begin This Year

On June 11, 2018, the Hughson City Council unanimously directed City staff to bring forward changes to the Hughson Municipal Code to better address the increase in recent years of illegal firework activity within the City limits. Modeled after programs implemented recently in the cities of Ceres, Modesto and Turlock, Hughson will follow suit by incorporating language into its municipal code to allow public safety personnel to enforce illegal activity more effectively.

The ordinance amendment is expected to define the activity, responsible party, monetary penalty and other administrative procedures. In some cities, the monetary penalty per occurrence is \$1,000. The ordinance amendment is also expected to address safe and sane fireworks and the associated permitting process. The recommended revisions to the municipal code will be done in the next few weeks but not in time for the upcoming 4th of July holiday.

That said, Hughson Police Services, will coordinate with the Hughson Fire Protection District, special operations this year to curtail activity and to educate residents and property owners on the new regulation under development. As part of this enforcement plan, illegal fireworks found by law enforcement personnel will be confiscated and disposed of properly.

This new program is being created due to the increased activity in the City limits during the holidays (4th of July, New Years Eve, etc.) and based on strong feedback from City residents. City staff will also be posting educational information, like in years past, to remind residents on what fireworks are legal in the State of California and general safety tips that should be followed during the holidays when handling fireworks during celebrations.

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Safe and Sane fireworks may only be purchased from a State Fire Marshal licensed retail stand from noon on June 28th to noon on July 5th. The State Fire Marshal's Safe & Sane book lists names of legal fireworks by company and assortment. Only fireworks that carry this California seal are legal in the State of California..

We suggest the following safety tips:

- Always read directions
- Have an adult present
- Use outdoors only
- Do not use near dry grass or other flammable materials
- Light only one at a time
- Keep a safe distance away from fireworks
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Never experiment with fireworks
- Never alter the design or shape of a firework
- Fireworks are not toys
- Have water handy
- Never attempt to relight or "fix" fireworks
- Never carry fireworks in your pockets
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing
- Never place any part of your body directly over a firework when lighting it

These fireworks are illegal in the State of California



If you find a suspicious device...

DO NOT touch it

If possible, isolate the item and evacuate the immediate area

DO NOT put it in water or a confined space like a drawer or file cabinet

If possible, open windows in the immediate area to help vent any explosive gasses.

If you have any reason to believe this is a pipe bomb, DO NOT take a chance:

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!

Source: Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services