



# News Release

**Contact:** Raul Mendez, City Manager

**June 13, 2019**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Illegal Firework Regulation Enforcement this 4<sup>th</sup> of July**

On November 26, 2018, the Hughson City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2018-05, creating Chapter 8.18 - Fireworks of the Hughson Municipal Code (HMC). On January 14, 2019, the City Council established associated administrative fines for violation of the HMC in addition to the application fees for permits for sale of “safe and sane” fireworks and firework displays.

City residents are reminded that this 4th of July holiday, the Ordinance will be in effect and enforced by Hughson Police Services in coordination with the Hughson Fire Protection District. Enforcement will include issuing penalties for the use, discharge, possession, selling, or manufacturing of dangerous fireworks, as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 12505. Dangerous fireworks are defined as set forth in the California Health and Safety Code Section 12505 (sky rockets, bottle rockets, roman candles, M-100, M-80, etc.).

Section 8.18.110 of the Ordinance states that any responsible party, such as owner, tenant, possessory, etc. of a residence or other private property within the City is required to supervise the property in a manner as not to violate this section. A responsible party does not need to be present at the time of the ordinance violation in order to receive an administrative citation. Per Hughson City Council Resolution No. 2019-02, ANY VIOLATION OF THE HUGHSON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.18, WHETHER THE VIOLATION IS CHARACTERIZED AS AN INFRACTION OR A MISDEMEANOR, IS PUNISHABLE BY A \$500 PENALTY FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION AND \$1,000 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL VIOLATION.

Chapter 8.18 also sets guidelines for the sale of “safe and sane” fireworks as well as firework displays. Firework stands permit applications must be submitted to the Finance/Administrative Services Department by 5:00 p.m. on June 15th. The permit fee for the retail sales of “safe and sane” fireworks is \$85. Completion of the Stanislaus County Fire Prevention Bureau Application for Permit to Sell Safe and Sane Fireworks must be completed prior to and included with the permit application. Permits will be issued after an inspection of the place of storage and stand reveals compliance with all conditions of Ordinance No. 2018-05. Sale of fireworks within the City shall be limited to the period commencing on June 28th and ending on July 6th for the hours of operation, also in which all unsold fireworks should be removed by 5:00 p.m.

Firework displays permit applications must be submitted to the Finance/Administrative Services Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the display. The permit fee for fireworks displays are \$200.

This new program was created due to the increased illegal firework activity in the City limits during the holidays (4<sup>th</sup> of July, New Year's Eve, etc.) and to clarify rules for "safe and sane" fireworks and firework displays. The City has also posted educational information, on the City website and on social media, to remind residents 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.

The Hughson City Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00pm. Meetings of the Hughson City Council are held at City Hall located at 7018 Pine Street, Hughson, CA. For more information, please visit the City of Hughson website at [www.hughson.org](http://www.hughson.org) or call 209.883.4054.

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Illegal fireworks confiscated by Hughson Police Services (HPS) during the 2018 July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday week. A total of 13 contacts were made by HPS as part of last year's pilot enforcement program.



**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 6th.** 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: