



# 2018 Fireworks Enforcement Update

Fire Department

Public Safety Committee  
March 21, 2018



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## BACKGROUND

1. The manufacturing, possession, storage, use and handling of fireworks is prohibited in the City of Riverside under Section 16.32.100 of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC).
2. The Fireworks Task Force will work together June 29 – July 7<sup>th</sup> and December 31st to provide public outreach and fireworks patrol enforcement teams throughout the City.



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## RMC ADDITIONS

1. **RMC Chapter 1.18, Section 1.18.040 Penalties:** Admin Citation in the amount of \$1,000 and a disposal fee as set by the state.
2. **RMC Chapter 16.32, Section 104.1.1 Citations:** Fire code official and his or her designee are authorized to issue a citation.
3. **RMC Chapter 16.32, Section 16.32.080 Assistance from Other Agencies:** Authority to render assistance with investigation of fires/enforcement when requested to do so.



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## BACKGROUND

1. The Fireworks Task Force consists of members from Riverside Fire Department, Riverside Police Department and Code Enforcement.
2. Lead personnel for the Fireworks Task Force are Fire Marshal McDowell, Police Lieutenant May and Code Enforcement Manager Gary Merk.



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## FIREWORKS ACTION PLAN

1. Riverside Fire Department, Riverside Police Department, Code Enforcement and Riverside TV are in the process of developing new fireworks Public Safety Announcements (PSAs) which will air in June, along with previously developed PSAs.
2. "Fireworks are Illegal" fliers and posters will be displayed at fire stations, distributed to schools and handed out to the public.
3. The electronic billboards at the Auto Mall near Adams and the 91 Freeway and the Marketplace at Mission Inn Avenue and the 91 will feature the "No Fireworks" message beginning in June.



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## FIREWORKS ACTION PLAN

4. "Fireworks are Illegal" flyers are scheduled to be included in the June utility billing, which will reach over 100,000 households.
5. Signs will be placed/distributed in areas previously identified as having high fireworks activity, including Casa Blanca and Arlanza.
6. RFD and RPD will use social media outlets to identify fireworks sales activity.



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## FIREWORKS ACTION PLAN

7. The fine for illegal fireworks has increased from \$500 to \$1,000. RFD, RPD and Code Enforcement will partner to enforce fireworks violations.
8. RFD, Code Enforcement and RPD will increase staffing from June 29 – July 7, 2018. RFD will overstaff six fire apparatus to standby at the Mt. Rubidoux fireworks show on July 4, 2018.
9. Fire management staff will be on duty and on-call for emergencies. Three battalion chiefs will be on duty July 4, and four additional chief officers will be on call and available to respond if needed.



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## NEW YEARS HOLIDAY ACTION PLAN

1. RFD, RPD, and Riverside TV will begin airing PSAs on social media as well as television from December 26, 2018 – January 1, 2019.
2. "Fireworks are Illegal" signs will be posted at all fire stations.



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## NEW YEARS HOLIDAY ACTION PLAN

3. Electronic billboards at the Auto Mall near Adams and the 91 Freeway, and the Marketplace at Mission Inn Ave and the 91 Freeway will feature the "No Fireworks" message.
4. RFD, RPD and Code Enforcement will staff additional personnel to assist with fireworks enforcement on December 31, 2018.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Public Safety Committee:

1. Receive an update on fireworks enforcement activities for 2018; and
2. Forward this update to City Council.



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