

# 2018 Fireworks Enforcement Update

Fire Department

City Council  
December 11, 2018



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## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

All fireworks are illegal in the City of Riverside per the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC):

1. RMC Chapter 16.32, Section 16.32.375 Fireworks: The manufacturing, possession, storage, use or handling of fireworks is prohibited in the City of Riverside.
2. RMC Chapter 1.18, Section 1.18.040 Penalties: In addition to any remedy available at law, any person in violation of any provision of this Chapter or Section 16.32.375 of this Code involving 25 pounds or less of fireworks is subject to the issuance of an administrative citation of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and a disposal fee as set by the State.
3. RMC Chapter 16.32, Section 104.1.1 Citations: The fire code official and his or her designee are authorized to issue a citation to persons operating or maintaining an occupancy, premises, or vehicle subject to this code who allow a hazard to exist or fail to take immediate action to abate a hazard on such occupancy, premises or vehicle when ordered or notified to do so.
4. RMC Chapter 16.32, Section 16.32.080 Assistance from Other Agencies: Police and other enforcement agencies shall have authority to render necessary assistance in the investigation of fires or enforcement when requested to do so.



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## BACKGROUND

1. Fireworks cause thousands of fires and injuries per year.
2. Multi-departmental task force was developed to address illegal fireworks consisting of RFD, RPD, and Code.
3. Task force goals include public education, outreach and enforcement of illegal fireworks.
4. 2018 Illegal Fireworks Education and Enforcement Program was approved by Public Safety Committee (March 21, 2018) and City Council (May 1, 2018).
5. A request to assess the program and discuss enhancements and penalties was made by City Council (June 26, 2018).
6. City Council approved a reward in the amount of \$1,000 for information leading to the identity and apprehension of any person involved in the use of illegal fireworks (July 2, 2018).



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## DISCUSSION

2018 Efforts Included:

1. Marketing and Outreach
2. 311 Mobile Application was promoted
3. Staffing was increased
4. Penalties



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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Staff Report of comprehensive fireworks analysis
2. Call volume statistics
3. How much is the program costing affected departments (Fire, PD, Code). Regular time, OT, marketing, etc.
4. Differences between 3-1-1 and 9-1-1
5. What worked well
6. How the fireworks program can be improved



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## TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

1. Occurred from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup> (adding four additional days this year).
2. Police Sergeant monitored incoming calls to assist dispatcher(s) and to ensure quicker response times.
3. A Citation/Activity log was updated daily by Sergeant Detmer; 311 calls were printed out and given to task forces to follow-up in areas of high activity.
4. Increased number of task forces from four to six. 2018 - RPD (46 personnel), RFD (22 personnel), and Code Enforcement (18 personnel) from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>. Recommended 9-12 task forces.



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## ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS 2017/2018

Administrative Citation Status 2017	Quantity	Payment Received	Administrative Citation Status 2018	Quantity	Payment Received
Paid in full	22	\$22,000	Paid in full	11	\$11,000
Payment Plan Set up	30	\$29,291	Payment Plan Set up	20	on-going
Appealed	11	\$7,000	Appealed	6	on-going
Dismissed	4	\$0	Dismissed	2	\$0
Sent to Collections	30	\$0	Sent to Collections	New Process \$1,000+ CA	on-going
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>\$62,819</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	

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## 2018 STATISTICS

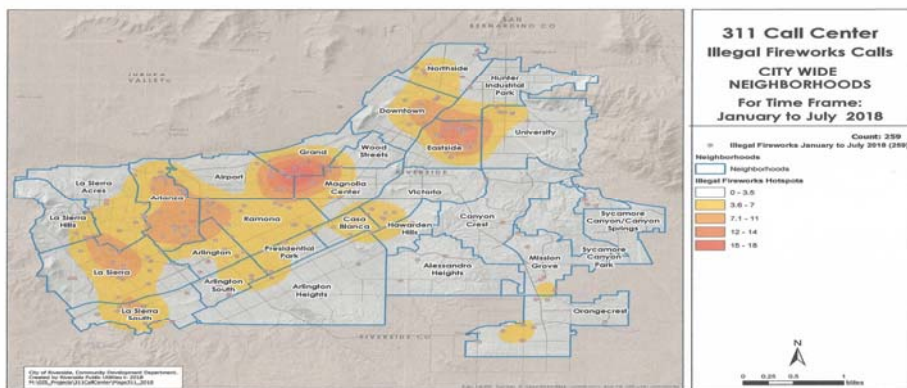
Year	Calls For Service	Fires	Injuries	Citations	Patrol Contacts	Fireworks Confiscated
2015	768	10	0	29	205	620 lbs.
2016	955	9	6	20	160	780 lbs.
2017	746	15	1	139	304	805 lbs.
2018	599	10	0	70	337	630 lbs.

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## 2018 FIREWORKS ACTIVITY HEAT MAP



NOTE: This map to be used as a tool only.



## COSTS TO SUPPORT PROGRAM

Description	2017	2018	2019
Utility Inserts	\$1730.00	\$1882.00	1,882.00
Certified Mailers	\$334.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Citations / Forms	\$589.00	\$69.00	\$69.00
Data Ticket	\$1,600	\$400.00 (1 pending)	\$400.00
Metal Signs	N/A	\$3,177.00	Depends on how many
Posters / Flyers	Donation / \$4,000.00 80K flyers / 700 posters	N/A	Purchase all items / \$4000.00
Backfill / PD-FIRE-CODE	\$19,000	\$29,130	U/K
State Fee 65%	\$0	U/K	U/K

NOTE: All internal program costs have come from Fire Dept. budget and a one time donation from the Kiwanis's Club. Accounts have been set up for PD, RFD and Code Enforcement for current State fees and to support other costs associated with the annual fireworks campaign.



## CURRENT STATE LEGISLATION

1. H & S Code Section 12726, provides that 65% of all administrative fines or penalties collected by the city shall be forwarded to the Controller of the State of CA for deposit in the SFM Fireworks Enforcement and Disposal Fund, as described in H & S Code 12728\*
2. The State is currently working on a resolution for the current Health & Safety Code (12726).
3. RFD/RPD will still process the States disposal form and see if they are able pick up our fireworks for disposal. If not, we will not need to pay them this year (TBD).



(\*Rate subject to change at the discretion of the State of California)

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## CURRENT 311 AFTER-HOURS SERVICE

1. Categorized by NPC District, to equally deploy resources to investigate incoming complaint(s) and reduce 911 calls to dispatch.
2. Citizens received warning letters to indicate "Fireworks Are Illegal" and a fine in the amount of \$1,000 would be issued if caught using them.
3. Call taker advises caller to download mobile app and text required information so RPD & FIRE can respond based on priority.



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## CONT. 311 AFTER-HOURS SERVICE

4. After-hours call taker is available Monday thru Friday 6:00 PM to 7:00 AM & Saturdays from 1:00 PM till 7:00 AM next business day.
5. App turned on June 1<sup>st</sup> and turned off August 31<sup>st</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
6. App turned on December 1<sup>st</sup> and turned off January 31<sup>st</sup>.
7. Call taker will refer caller to call 911 if it involves fire/life safety or will advise to call the non-emergency # 951-354-2007.
8. Fire and RPD sent out warning letters to persons who received a citation last year, any actual addressed retrieved from 311, and any person the task force received information on using illegal fireworks.



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## ENHANCED 2018 FIREWORKS PROGRAM

1. The 311 application was enhanced to provide real time information to our task force members so they could follow-up when information is received.
2. "Fireworks are Illegal" metal signs were designed and placed throughout the City in high fireworks activity locations depicted by the 311 heat map.
3. Additional staffing was provided to support the task force operations and additional dates were worked due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July falling on a week day.
4. Downtown parking meters displayed the "Fireworks Are Illegal" image stating a \$1,000 fine would be issued.
5. Volunteers from The Grove Community Church handed out posters to local businesses for their store fronts.
6. A significant decrease in illegal fireworks sales activity on Craig's List and Offer Up.



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## FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO 311

1. Have a Press conference at City Hall to kickoff Fireworks safety and educate community on 311 app.
2. Develop new PSA's and videos in English/Spanish, describing task force procedures when receiving and responding to 311 and 911 fireworks calls.
3. Increase staffing for 4<sup>th</sup> of July from 6 to 10 Task Force teams.



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## NEW YEARS 2018/2019

1. Revamping flyer
2. Repurpose flyer image for use on other platforms
  - a) Social media (posts, event/header images for both City and Fire pages)
  - b) Website slider image
  - c) Parking meter graphic
  - d) Electronic signs (Marketplace, University Village and Auto Center signs)
  - e) City Hall lobby television screens (welcome screens near the main entrance)
3. On-hold messaging (phone system)
4. Electronic billboards operating from December 1<sup>st</sup> to Jan 31<sup>st</sup>
5. Meet to discuss staffing for 2019



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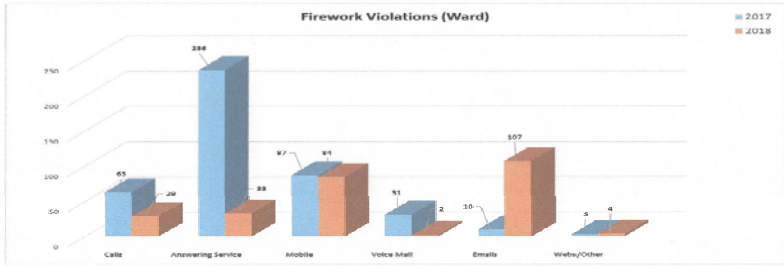
## 311 Call Center

2017/2018 - 311 Call Center (Fireworks- Source Report)


**311 Call Center Data**



Solution	2017						2018							
	Calls	Answering Service	Mobile	Voice Mail	Emails	Web/Other	Total	Calls	Answering Service	Mobile	Voice Mail	Emails	Web/Other	Total
999, Fireworks Violation	83	238	87	31	10	3	432	29	33	84	2	107	4	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>229</b>

Category	2017	2018
Calls	83	29
Answering Service	238	33
Mobile	87	84
Voice Mail	31	2
Emails	10	107
Web/Other	3	4



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## 9-1-1 FIREWORKS CALLS

Year	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	5 DAY TOTAL
2014	9	14	57	224	62	366
2015	8	32	94	374	123	631
2016	78	132	188	307	94	799
2017	82	86	138	304	41	651
2018	58	27	77	403	34	599

**NOTE: Provide a dedicated dispatcher for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and New Years Eve.**


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## CALLS RECIEVED

1. Add fireworks reporting to RPD's App.: Added this feature this year, but can improve by sending the text message and photos to other task force members. Due to other priority incoming calls, our task forces may get called to handle other significant incidents i.e. fires, kidnapping, and shootings.
2. Mention the City has (1) RPD dispatcher for all 911 calls and would like to obtain exclusively for (1) for Fireworks calls.



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## FIREWORKS TASK FORCE

1. Deployed in six, two-person teams which included:
  - a) 1 Sergeant
  - b) 2 Detectives
  - c) 3 Riverside Fire Department Arson Investigators
  - d) 2 City Code Enforcement Officers
2. Intended to respond to illegal firework calls for service and make self-initiated contacts with individuals violating the City's fireworks Ordinance



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## RPD PATROL STAFFING

1. Staffing between 2pm-12am included:
  - a) 4 Sergeants
  - b) 24 police officers
  - c) 4 trainees
  - d) **For a total of 32 personnel**
  
2. Staffing between 10pm-8am included:
  - a) 1 Lieutenant
  - b) 3 Sergeants
  - c) 19 police officers
  - d) **For a total of 23 personnel**
  
3. Downtown Entertainment District Unit (DED)
4. Staffing between 6pm-4am included:
  - a) 1 Sergeant
  - b) 4 police officers
  - c) 1 trainee
  - d) **For a total of 6 personnel**



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## RPD STAFFING: FIREWORKS SHOWS

### Mt. Rubidoux

1. 1 Lieutenant
  2. 3 Sergeants
  3. 28 Police Officers
  4. 1 Police Trainee
  5. 7 Police Explorers
- For a total of 33 sworn personnel  
and 7 non-sworn**

### La Sierra

1. 1 Police Officer
2. 6 Police Explorers

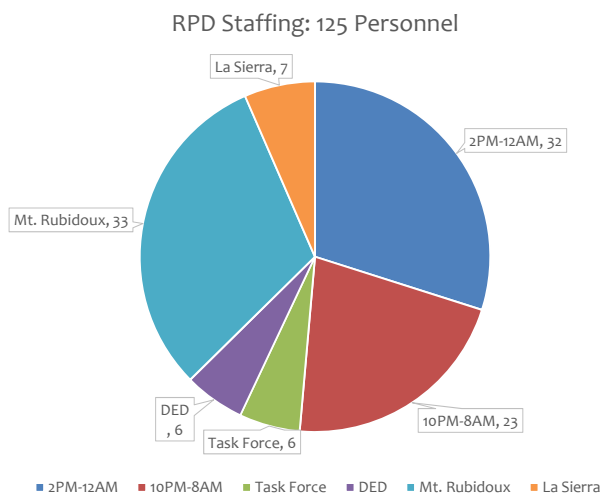
Significantly less attendance  
than Mt. Rubidoux



*\*\*Most officers from RPD SWAT and Traffic Unit*

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## TOTAL RPD STAFFING



## RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council discuss and receive the illegal fireworks education and enforcement plan update including options for improving the program.

