

2018 Fireworks Enforcement Update

Fire Department

Public Safety Committee Meeting
October 17, 2018



RiversideCA.gov

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.

2



RiversideCA.gov

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)



3

RiversideCA.gov

DISCUSSION

2018 Efforts Include:

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



4

RiversideCA.gov

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Discussion of:

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.



5

RiversideCA.gov

TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

1. Occurred from June 29th to July 7th (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 29th to July 7th. Recommended 9-12 task forces.



6

RiversideCA.gov

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
Total	129	\$62,819	Total	70	\$

7



RiversideCA.gov

2018 STATISTICS

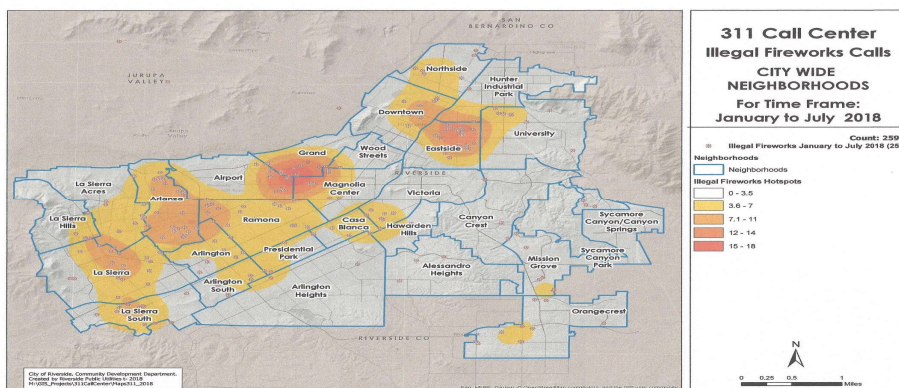
	Calls For Service	Fires	Injuries	Citations	Patrol Contacts	Fireworks Confiscated
2015	768	10	0	29	205	620 lbs.
2016	955	9	6	20	160	780 lbs.
2017	746	15	1	139	304	805 lbs.
2018	599	10	0	70	337	630 lbs.

8



RiversideCA.gov

2018 FIREWORKS ACTIVITY HEAT MAP



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



9

RiversideCA.gov

Costs To Support Program

	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. 10



RiversideCA.gov

CURRENT 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)

11

RiversideCA.gov

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.



12

RiversideCA.gov

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 1st and turned off August 31st for 4th of July.
6. App turned on December 1st and turned off January 31st.
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.



13

RiversideCA.gov

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 4th 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.



14

RiversideCA.gov

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 4th of July from 6 to 10 Task Force teams.



15

RiversideCA.gov

NEW YEARS 2018/2019

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



16

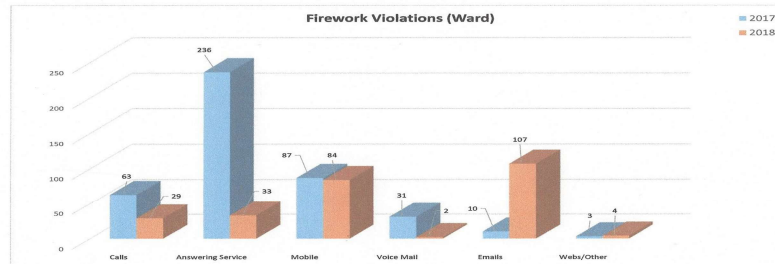
RiversideCA.gov

311 Call Center

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



Solution	2017						2018					
	Calls	Answering Service	Mobile	Voice Mail	Emails	Web/Other	Calls	Answering Service	Mobile	Voice Mail	Emails	Web/Other
RPD_Fireworks Violation	63	236	87	31	10	3	29	33	84	2	107	4
Total	63	236	87	31	10	3	29	33	84	2	107	4



17

RiversideCA.gov

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 4th of July and New Years Eve.



18

RiversideCA.gov

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.



19

RiversideCA.gov

FIREWORKS TASK FORCE

Deployed in six, two-person teams which included:

- 1 Sergeant
- 2 Detectives
- 3 Riverside Fire Department Arson Investigators
- 2 City Code Enforcement Officers

Intended to respond to illegal firework calls for service and make self-initiated contacts with individuals violating the City's fireworks Ordinance.



20

RiversideCA.gov

RPD PATROL STAFFING

Staffing between 2pm-12am included:

- 4 Sergeants
- 24 police officers
- 4 trainees

For a total of 32 personnel

Staffing between 10pm-8am included:

- 1 Lieutenant
- 3 Sergeants
- 19 police officers

For a total of 23 personnel

Downtown Entertainment District Unit (DED)

Staffing between 6pm-4am included:

- 1 Sergeant
- 4 police officers
- 1 trainee

For a total of 6 personnel



21

RiversideCA.gov

RPD STAFFING: FIREWORKS SHOWS

Mt. Rubidoux

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

La Sierra

- 1 Police Officer
- 6 Police Explorers

Significantly less attendance than Mt. Rubidoux

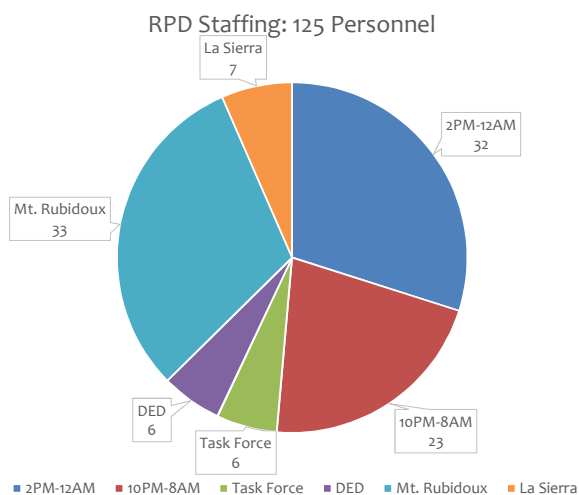
***Most officers from RPD SWAT and Traffic Unit*



22

RiversideCA.gov

TOTAL RPD STAFFING



23



RiversideCA.gov

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Public Safety Committee receive the illegal fireworks education and enforcement plan update and provide input for program improvements and penalties for offenders.

24



RiversideCA.gov