

2023 Fireworks Update

Fire Department

Public Safety Committee
March 20, 2024



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BACKGROUND

- Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2022, reported over ten thousand (10,000) injuries related to fireworks and eleven (11) deaths.
- The City of Riverside has developed a Task Force with Code Enforcement, Fire Department, and the Police Department.
 - The City of Riverside campaign aims is to inform, educate, and enforcement to reduce and prevent personal injuries or property damage from Fireworks.



2

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RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE

- Riverside Municipal Code 16.32.370 Section 5601.1.1:
 - The manufacturing, possession, storage, use, and handling of fireworks is prohibited.
- RMC Chapter 1.18, Section 1.18.040 Penalties:
 - Admin Citation in the amount of \$1,000 and a disposal fee set by the state.
- RMC Chapter 16.32, Section 104.1.1 Citations:
 - Fire code official and his or her designee are authorized to issue a citation.
- 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.



3

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FIREWORKS PROGRAM ACTIONS

- The Riverside Office of Communications, Riverside Fire Department, and the Riverside Police Department provided fireworks Public Safety Announcements (PSAs), aired throughout June and July.
- The electronic billboards at the Auto Mall near Adams and the 91 Freeway, and the Marketplace at Mission Inn Avenue and the 91 Freeway featured the “No Fireworks” message beginning in June.
- RFD and RPD used social media outlets to identify fireworks sales activity.
- The fine for illegal fireworks is \$1,000. RFD, RPD, and Code Enforcement partnered to enforce fireworks violations.



4

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FIREWORKS PROGRAM ACTIONS

- RFD, Code Enforcement, and RPD increased staffing from June 29 – July 4, 2023. RFD overstaffed six (9) fire apparatus to stand by at the Mt. Rubidoux and La Sierra fireworks shows on July 4, 2024
- Fire management staff were on duty and on-call for emergencies. Three battalion chiefs were on duty for July 4, and four additional chief officers were on-call and available to respond if needed.
- All 14 Fire stations are directed to maintain a visible presence during July 4 festivities to enforce RMC 16.31.100 and to educate the public on the danger associated with fireworks.
- Five (5) to seven (7) Task Force groups were active nightly.



Response and Citation Information

- Data totals collected between June 30, 2023, and July 4, 2023:

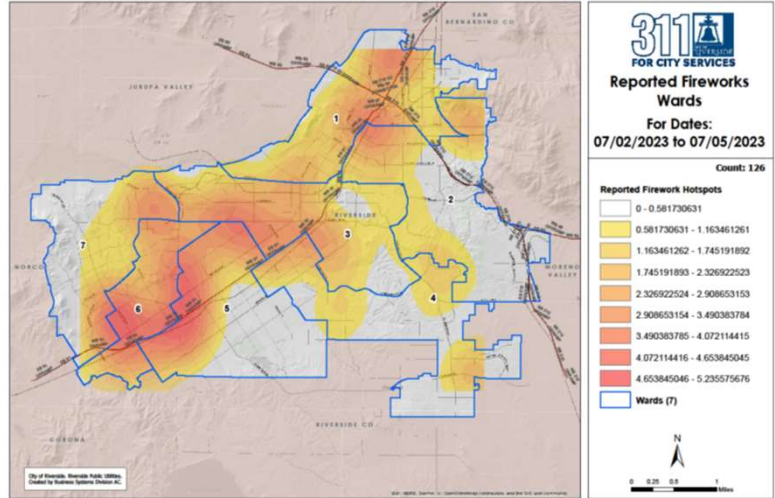
Total Radio Calls	Total On-View	Total 311 Calls	Total Fireworks Seized	Total Citations Issued	Total Collected from Citations
279	132	82	340 pounds	24	\$2,000

- Citations Update:
 - Twenty-four (24) citations sent to finance.
 - No citations have been sent to collections.
 - Two (2) citations have been paid in full.



Citation By Ward

- Ward 1 – 0
- Ward 2 – 6
- Ward 3 – 3
- Ward 4 – 5
- Ward 5 – 6
- Ward 6 – 6
- Ward 7 - 3



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FISCAL IMPACT

- Fiscal Impact for the 2023 Jun 30 to July 4 fireworks enforcement and event staffing totaled \$95,375.
- Department finical breakdown:

Code Enforcement	Police Department	Fire Department
\$5,645	\$63,319	\$26,411



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Recommendations

That the Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee:

1. Receive update on fireworks enforcement for 2024; and
2. Forward to the City Council.

