



Union City Fire Department News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 2009

Contact: Union City Fire Department
510.675.5470

“Celebrate Our Freedom Safely”

Union City - The use and sale of “Safe and Sane” or “State Approved” fireworks are legal within the City of Union City. This year, 23 nonprofit groups will operate permitted booths within the City limits. The City allows the use of fireworks from 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 1 until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 3. On July 4th, fireworks may be used from 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m. No fireworks of any kind are permitted east of Mission Blvd., in City Parks or City Streets, at any time.

This year, the Union City Police and Fire Departments will be issuing citations to property owners and tenants who allow the use of illegal fireworks on their property or property under their control. The property owner and tenant are liable and will be cited for conduct on their property and face fines of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for each occurrence.

It is extremely important to know the difference between a legal firework and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100s, Cherry Bombs, and Firecrackers are not fireworks, they are federally banned explosives. They can cause serious injury or even death. Bottle Rockets are another form of illegal explosives. Every year hundreds of people see their dreams go up in smoke as a result of illegal bottle rockets. Stay away from anything that is not clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturer’s name, and instructions for proper use, and the California State Fire Marshal’s seal.

Legal fireworks used safely are a wonderful way for a family to celebrate the holiday. However, parents must pay close attention when children are present during the display of fireworks. Several injuries are reported each year due to children being allowed to ignite fireworks without proper supervision. It is against the law for any person less than eighteen years of age to purchase, possess, or discharge “Safe and Sane” fireworks unless under the supervision of an adult.

Remember, if it goes up in the air, darts across the ground or explodes, it is ***dangerous & illegal***. To report the sale or use of illegal fireworks, please contact the Union City Police and Fire Departments at (510) 471-1365. If you would like additional information regarding fireworks safety and education, please contact the Union City Fire Department’s Administration Office at 675-5470 or check out the State Fire Marshal’s 4th of July Fireworks Information web page at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer_fireworks.php.

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