



NEWS RELEASE

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(Hillsboro Patrols Help Reduce Illegal Fireworks)

Joint patrols of Hillsboro Police Officers and Fire Inspectors appear to be making a difference in the number of residents using illegal fireworks. Officers from both agencies report that fewer fireworks were confiscated this year than last year and no citations were issued. In the past, officers have issued citations to citizens who protested seizure of their illegal fireworks. Oregon law prohibits possession and use of fireworks that explode, fly into the air or travel over the ground more than 12-feet, or shoot projectiles. Illegal items include: M-80s, cherry bombs, bottle rockets, Roman candles and firecrackers. Violators are subject to fines up to \$500 per incident and seizure of their illegal fireworks. Legal fireworks are described as snakes, sparklers, fountains and spinning ground wheels.

“We’re pleased that citizens are getting the message about keeping it legal and safe during their July 4th celebrations,” said Lt. Jim Kelly, who headed up the Hillsboro Police contingent of the task force.

Fire inspectors conducted an inventory on Monday of the fireworks seized over the two nights of patrols. They confiscated 3,685 items with an estimated value of more than \$10,000. That is about one third the quantity picked up in previous years. The illegal materials will be taken to an undisclosed location and later destroyed by technicians from the Metro Explosive Disposal Unit.

“Between better community education and enforcement of the existing laws over the past three years, we’ve significantly reduced the number of illegal fireworks in Hillsboro,” said Fire Inspector Joe Ligatich.

The fireworks task force patrols operated on Friday, July 3rd from 8:00 pm until 1:00 am and on Saturday, July 4th from 7:00 pm until 1:00 am.

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Photo caption:

Ligatich Fireworks Inventory 1379.jpg

Hillsboro Fire Inspector Joe Ligatich inventories the estimated \$10,000 in illegal fireworks seized during special patrols over the holiday weekend.

Fireworks Seized 1370.jpg

The estimated \$10,000 in illegal fireworks seized during special patrols in Hillsboro over the holiday weekend will be disposed of by technicians from the Metro Explosive Disposal Unit.