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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **City of Hobbs Independence Day Fireworks Display and Safe Zones**

The City of Hobbs will host its annual Independence Day fireworks display at the HIAP (Hobbs Industrial Air Park, 5425 Jack Gomez Blvd.) on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Contests, games, vendors, and more viewing areas will be available at Harry McAdams Park with gates opening for parking at 7 p.m. the day of the event.

Additionally, the City of Hobbs will host the Safe Zone at the HIAP on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Safe Zone is an opportunity for those present to light any type of firework regardless of whether they are legal within Hobbs city limits. This is an opportunity for everyone to indulge and safely enjoy this time of year. The area will be monitored with City of Hobbs personnel present, including members of the Fire and Police Departments.

Some may ask why the annual fireworks display is being held on July 1<sup>st</sup> instead of the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the City of Hobbs would like to inform the public of a common nationwide shortage of pyrotechnicians to safely work fireworks displays, thus requiring communities to be flexible with the date of their Independence Day displays. While this is not the traditional date, we hope all understand and enjoy another occasion to celebrate our patriotism!

To make this year's event run smoothly, Staff from the multiple City of Hobbs departments who plan and coordinate this event including Police, Fire, Parks and Open Spaces, Traffic, Streets, Communications, and Recreation Departments wish to make the public aware of the schedule of events and details that will be in place.

### **2023 FIREWORKS HOTLINE**

For anyone wishing to report an excessive number of fireworks being lit and exploding in their neighborhood, they are encouraged to call the Lea County Fireworks Hotlines instead of 9-1-1 to avoid tying up the limited number of 9-1-1 dispatcher lines:

(575)433-5004  
(575)433-5003  
(575)433-5001

### **INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS DISPLAY EVENT SCHEDULE AND RULES**

(The order of events is accurate. All details are subject to change.)

- HIAP gates open at 7:00 p.m.
  - The middle entrance will be quick access for handicap parking spaces
- Movies Under the Stars will begin at sundown, so be sure to arrive early!
- The fireworks show will occur during an intermission of Movies Under the Stars and lasts approximately 20 minutes
- The public is not permitted to light fireworks of any kind at this location during the event
- "NO PARKING" signs will be placed in designated areas where this will be enforced
- Police personnel will be present to assist in directing traffic in and out of the area

- Please be sure to take care of your belongings and throw away all trash in proper receptacles
- No alcohol will be allowed
- Any behavior deemed inappropriate or disrespectful to others present may result in the offender(s) being asked to leave to maintain the health and safety of all

#### **SAFE ZONE**

- The Safe Zone will be open from 8 p.m. – 11 p.m. on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Gates will be locked outside of these hours
- Fireworks of all kinds and sizes will be allowed regardless if they are legal within Hobbs city limits; no other types of explosive items will be allowed to be lit or blown up
- Participants are expected to dispose of their trash appropriately and to leave their area clean without debris
- The area will be monitored by City personnel
- No alcohol will be allowed
- Any behavior deemed inappropriate or disrespectful to others present may result in the offender(s) being asked to leave to maintain the health and safety of all

The City of Hobbs would like to remind residents and visitors that the majority of Lea and Gaines Counties are in a state of Severe to Moderate Drought status per the National Drought Mitigation Center, causing a majority of these communities to place fireworks bans or restrictions. While current weather conditions make it easy for wildfires to quickly spread, many behaviors and activities around this holiday place life and property at risk in cities as well. More than a quarter of fires reported on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July are caused by fireworks, showing that proper cautions were not taken and that users' behaviors were not safe. Do not make yourself or your loved ones a statistic. It is the responsibility of us all to keep healthy, well-maintained properties and to monitor each other's activities for a safer community.

All details regarding this event are subject to change or be cancelled due to drought and safety concerns. The event will be conducted by trained and certified professionals contracted by the City of Hobbs. Continue to follow City of Hobbs departments on Facebook and Instagram for current updates. Any questions regarding this event can be directed to (575)397-9291 or by messaging our social media accounts.

All activities will be pursuant to Hobbs Municipal Code Section 8.12.040.

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