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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4th of July Safety Tips

In the United States alone, over 350,00 fires are reported each year. Over 19,500 of those are caused by fireworks on or around the 4th of July with over 18,000 fires including residences. These are often caused by negligence or risky behavior, especially when celebrating Independence Day.

The Hobbs Fire Department has some safety tips that all users of fireworks should follow this year:

- Fireworks may not be sold to anyone under 16 years old
- Fireworks may not be sold to anyone who is intoxicated
- Keep in mind the hour of usage and be considerate of your neighbors
- Be aware that dry weather conditions have made grasses and weeds susceptible to fire
- Keep a water supply – a garden hose and a bucket – handy in case of fire
- Children should never use fireworks without adult supervision
- Never let children light fireworks
- Light only one item at a time and move away from it
- Use fireworks outdoors only and keep them away from combustibles and busy areas
- Purchase fireworks only from a licensed vendor
- Follow all label directions carefully
- When you are finished celebrating, clean up debris from fireworks and help keep Hobbs beautiful
- Use common sense

Pursuant to Hobbs Municipal Code Section 8.12.040, the only fireworks allowed to be purchased and discharged in the City of Hobbs (outside of the Safe Zone) are ground and hand-held sparkling and smoking devices, including:

- Cone Fountains
- Crackling devices
- Cylindrical fountains
- Flitter sparklers
- Illuminating torches
- Toy smoke devices
- Wheels

Fireworks prohibited for possession, sale or use in Hobbs are aerial and ground audible devices such as:

- Aerial spinners
- Helicopters
- Mines
- Missile-type rockets
- Roman candles
- Shells
- Stick-type rockets
- Chasers
- Firecrackers

SAFE ZONE

To better serve and inform you, the City of Hobbs is hosting a “Safe Zone” July 2nd – 4th at the HIAP (Hobbs Industrial Air Park, 5425 Jack Gomez Blvd.) located at the intersection of Jack Gomez Boulevard and A Street for citizens to safely light fireworks of any and all kinds. Citizens are encouraged to utilize the Safe Zone in an effort to keep their neighborhoods safe and quiet.

- The Safe Zone will be open from 8 p.m. – 11 p.m. on Sunday, July 2nd – Tuesday, July 4th
- 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

It is important to note that fireworks purchased outside of Hobbs city limits may be prohibited within the city of Hobbs and may result in citations or fines if possessed or discharged within city limits. The regulations applicable in Lea County limits now align with those of the City of Hobbs, ensuring consistency in these laws. It is advised to possess and discharge fireworks in the locale where they were purchased.

Lastly, 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.

We all intend to have a safe and fun 4th of July celebration, which means we need to look out for each other. Help to inform your friends and family of these tips and information as our country’s birthday quickly approaches. For more information on fireworks and fireworks safety, call the Hobbs Fire Department at (575) 391-8158 or message us on Facebook and Instagram.

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