



P O L I C E D E P A R T M E N T
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FOR RELEASE

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**SANTA CRUZ POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS URGE THE
PUBLIC NOT TO USE CONSUMER FIREWORKS**

Recognizing the dangers associated with consumer fireworks, Santa Cruz Fire and Police Departments are working jointly to denounce the usage of these dangerous products. The agencies will be teaming up to confiscate all illegal fireworks and are proactively seeking the community's support in maintaining a safe Fourth of July. "Every year people are unnecessarily injured because of consumer fireworks" Division Chief Mark Ramos said, "there truly is no safe way to use these fireworks." In the last few years, Santa Cruz Police and Fire Departments confiscated hundreds of pounds of high-explosive fireworks and thousands of fireworks.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks caused an estimated 18,000 total fires in 2009 (the most recent data available). These fires resulted in \$38 million in direct property damage. In addition, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated more than 8,800 people for fireworks related injuries in 2009. Locally, law enforcement and fire agencies run hundreds of calls-for-service in one of the busiest nights the county faces every year.

The Santa Cruz Police Department will be engaging in proactive enforcement of all laws, including public intoxication, public consumption of alcoholic beverages, disturbance violations, possession of illegal fireworks and driving under the influence of alcohol. Certain municipal code violations will be subject to triple fines. Due to the high volume of traffic, various roads will also have restricted access throughout the eastern portion of the city.

For more information on road closures and triple fine zones please visit the Santa Cruz Police Department website at www.santacruzpolice.com.

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