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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fireworks Restriction Reminder

The 4th of July holiday is here and the celebration of America's independence is a festive and thankful time of year. However, with the festivities come the dangers of fireworks. Sedgwick County Fire District #1 asks citizens to please be careful and watch children closely when around fireworks.

The fireworks rules for Sedgwick County vary among municipalities:

1. Fireworks are completely illegal in the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County. In other words, if you are not within the city limits of any city in Sedgwick County, fireworks are illegal to possess or shoot.
2. Only fireworks sold by retailers within the City of Wichita are legal in Wichita. Fireworks sold in a city outside Wichita may not be legal in Wichita.
3. Most cities in Sedgwick County allow fireworks, but a few do not. Please contact your local city offices to inquire about city-specific laws.
4. Commercial fireworks are to be used by licensed pyrotechnicians. The use of commercial grade fireworks by untrained persons can result in severe injuries and death.
5. Do not buy fireworks in one community and take them to another community. It is likely you will be breaking the law by doing so.
6. The general rule in all of Sedgwick County is "shoot them where you buy them."

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Safety tips for fireworks:

- * Always read and follow label instructions.
- * Always purchase high quality fireworks from a reliable, legitimate source.
- * Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a “designated shooter.”
- * Never give fireworks to small children.
- * Adults should always supervise the use of fireworks by older children.
- * Always wear eye protection when lighting fireworks.
- * Never ignite fireworks indoors. Make sure your outdoor area is safe for fireworks.
- * Never point or throw fireworks at a person, building or animal.
- * Have a source of water handy, in case of fire.
- * Never shoot fireworks in a metal or glass container.
- * Light only one firework at a time.
- * Never attempt to re-light malfunctioning fireworks.
- * When lighting fireworks, never position any part of your body over them.
- * Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- * Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- * Never experiment with homemade fireworks. They are dangerous and illegal.
- * Bottle rockets and other skyrockets that are mounted on a stick or wire are illegal.
- * It is illegal to shoot fireworks on or under a vehicle, on any public roadway, within 50 feet of a fireworks stand or where fireworks are stored, and gas stations or any place gas – including propane – is stored.
- * Please be aware that the 4th of July is the worst time of the year for animals, who are scared of the loud noises. Please be thoughtful of your own pets and those of your neighbors.

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