



Campus Cops Corner

-Public Safety Tips for the PPCC Community-

Public Safety Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Happy 4th of July to all of you! As we watch and read about the war and political strife throughout the world, it is entirely proper that we celebrate the Independence Day of our great country. I do, however, want you to return to work safe and sound, so a gentle reminder about the laws and dangers of fireworks in our community.

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FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN COLORADO SPRINGS !!!

I know it seems confusing and even hypocritical when you see fireworks stands throughout our community. Let me try to make sense of it for you. Fireworks are illegal ***within the city limits of Colorado Springs***. The fireworks stands you see are located within the unincorporated (not part of any city) portions of El Paso County. Colorado Springs' border is not smooth and straight on all sides, so there are little pockets and inroads of our community which seem like they are "in the city" but are actually "part of the county."

Within the city limits of Colorado Springs, (the cities of Fountain and Manitou Springs have similar laws) you may not use any type of fireworks which require you to use a lighter or match. The Gazette reports that the city stated this included "(anything) with a fuse ... sparklers, firecrackers, Roman candles, cherry bombs, bottle rockets and the black ashen snakes that quietly squirm on the sidewalk." Fines range up to \$500 and you could even be jailed up to 90 days. If it's something where you simply throw it down or pull a string, and it pops, it's OK. (<http://www.gazette.com/articles/fireworks-57594-springs-colorado.html>)

In the unincorporated part of the county, "sparklers fountain, smoke bombs, ground spinners and small spark-spitting toys are permitted, while things that explode, shoot flames, or fly through the air" are not. Remember, you're still responsible for whatever damage you may cause even if the firework is legal. All Coloradans have to be conscientious and "fire wise" while living in our dry climate. (<http://www.gazette.com/articles/fireworks-57594-springs-colorado.html>)

The Center for Disease Control reports that over 9000 people were injured and 11 died as a result of fireworks in 2006. Two thirds of those injuries occurred during the 4th of July season. One third were under 15 years of age, but nearly half were under 20. Hands, eyes, face, head and ears were the parts most often injured. While burns were the most common injury, people also suffered cuts, bruises and foreign objects in their eyes. Firecrackers, sparklers (which burn at 1000 degrees!), and rockets were the items which created the most injuries (in descending order). <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/fworks.htm>

Lastly, please remember to bring your pets indoors during the celebration.



Important Numbers & websites:

- 24-7 Emergency Number: 502-2911
- Emergency Alert Sign Up: www.ppcc.edu/alert