



NEWS RELEASE

Mike Browning

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Twitter: @cityofmborotn

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityofmurfreesborotn

PHONE: 615-848-3245/642-3230 mobile

EMAIL: mbrowning@murfreesborotn.gov

Website: www.murfreesborotn.gov

Amy Norville

MPD Assistant PIO

anorville@murfreesborotn.gov

Ashley McDonald

MFRD PIO

amcdonald@murfreesborotn.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 26, 2018

MFRD and MPD coordinate safety efforts for Fourth of July

Fireworks in City limits only permissible July 3, 4, and 5 between 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — As the Fourth of July approaches, Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Department and Murfreesboro Police Department are coordinating efforts to keep our community safe.

MPD will have residential patrols as well as increased traffic enforcement through the holiday. Officers will strictly enforce speeding, seat belt, DUI, and other traffic related laws as well as the City fireworks regulations.

Both MPD and MFRD will be present at the city-sponsored "Celebration Under the Stars" event on July 4 at McKnight Park.

MPD will provide traffic and event control. MFRD will have the Special Events Team tent set up for the day's festivities and will be able to provide medical assistance if necessary. Visitors to the tent can pick up a hand fan and sunscreen to help beat the heat. MFRD's award-winning Honor Guard will present colors at the opening ceremony and crews will be posted at the site where the fireworks will be launched. MFRD personnel will be on standby during the fireworks show.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CITY FIREWORKS REGULATIONS

In the city limits of Murfreesboro, it is *only permissible to use fireworks on July 3rd, 4th, and 5th between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.*

-(MORE)-

Seasonal sales of fireworks are only permitted from June 28th-July 5th from State-approved retailers. According to Fire Marshal Carl Peas, a total of 15 fireworks retail sites were inspected and approved earlier this week.

The Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind citizens that it is unlawful for any person to use any item of fireworks on private property without the consent of the property owner. It is also unlawful for any person to use any item of fireworks on public property including public streets, unless it is part of an approved public display.

The City of Murfreesboro prohibits the sell, use, or possession of any mortar firework with a single tube, if that tube has been preloaded with a shell and the tube or shell has a diameter of one and a half inches. Anyone in the city limits is also prohibited from selling, using, or possessing reloadable fireworks and bottle rockets.

FIREWORKS SAFETY

- According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year. About one in four of those fires are reported on Independence Day.

MFRD urges citizens to enjoy public displays of fireworks (such as the City's "Celebration Under the Stars"), rather than risking the use of consumer fireworks. However, citizens who choose to use consumer fireworks are offered the following safety tips:

- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Wear eye protection.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never throw or point fireworks at people or animals.
- Only light fireworks outdoors on a smooth, flat surface away from homes, dry leaves and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water and a garden hose nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Sparklers are not toys and cause hundreds of injuries every year. Sparklers burn hot, can reach temperatures as high as 1,200° F, and stay hot long after they've burned out. You wouldn't hand a matchbook or lighter to a child to wave around or play with, so don't give a child a sparkler.

"To avoid injuries, those using fireworks should be extra cautious and strictly follow the instructions on their fireworks," said Assistant Fire Marshal Michael Bartlett, "and always make sure to have adult supervision." Bartlett gives more safety in a public service announcement at <https://youtu.be/jFZy92W0w-M>.

For more about the City of Murfreesboro's rules about fireworks or to access a link to the full text for the city code related to fireworks, please visit <http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/FAQ.aspx?QID=192>.

For City News online, visit www.Murfreesborotn.gov.

1. *City of Murfreesboro Logo.jpg*
2. *Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Logo.jpg*
3. *MPD Logo.jpg*

(###)