



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Date: June 24, 2022  
To: Media Outlets  
From: Chad Williams, Police Chief; Craig Ferguson, Fire Chief  
Re: Fireworks

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All fireworks in the City of Big Spring are illegal. We want everyone to enjoy fireworks on the Fourth of July. The best way to do this is to attend a professional, public show like Pops in the Park. Fireworks are considered explosive devices, and they are extremely dangerous. Every year, numerous adults and children are injured or burned as a result of playing with fireworks.

Not only is igniting fireworks dangerous, but it also ignores the people who live in your neighborhood. We believe it's essential to think about your neighbors. Illegal firework activity can:

- Scare pets
- Cause injury
- Start fires
- Stress military members and veterans

It is unlawful for any person to use or discharge any fireworks in the City of Big Spring. Much of the state is experiencing record drought conditions. This has led to extreme fire danger conditions and red flag warnings. Howard County, specifically, is currently under a burn ban. Dry vegetation, including grass, trees, scrubs, and even mulch, can quickly catch on fire. In some cases, the conditions are explosive and can result in extensive property damage.

The discharge of illegal fireworks generates a significant number of complaints every year. These calls are typically routed through 911 and tie up public safety resources. The city's fire and police departments do not have the resources to devote solely to handling fireworks complaints. The police department's current priority is handling high-priority calls. To help ensure our officers are available to respond to priority emergency calls, we ask that residents do not discharge illegal fireworks. Fireworks complaint calls will be answered based on the availability of officers in handling other priority emergency calls.