

Reminder: Fireworks Are Prohibited Inside the City Limits
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Public Information Officer

The City of Hutto would like to remind citizens that fireworks are prohibited inside the City Limits and within 5,000 feet of the ETJ. We realize some residents know how to handle fireworks responsibly and would like to participate in the festivities, but, truth is, fireworks will be considered a nuisance by the Hutto Police Department (and probably your neighbors) and if you're caught, it could cost you a fine.

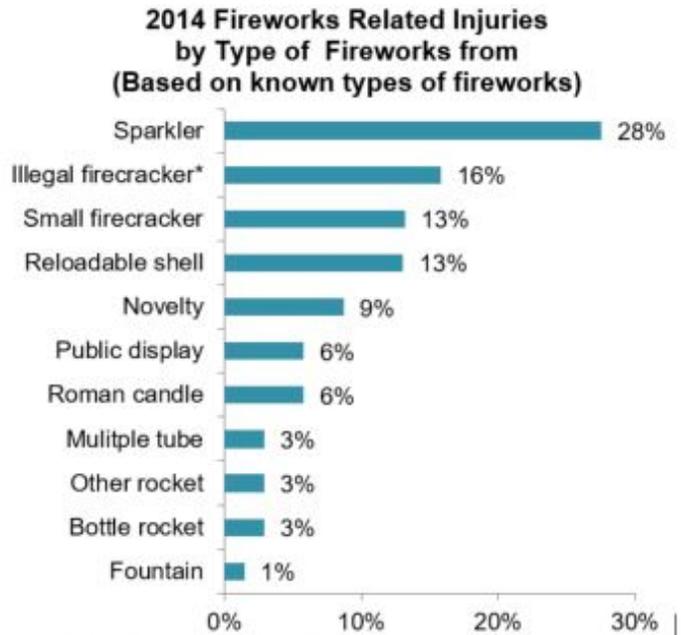
Now, it's not about ruining anyone's fun or trying to end a tradition. Fireworks may be fun and exciting, but safety is our number one priority. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 fires in the United States in 2013. This includes 1,400 structure fires, 200 vehicle fires and 14,000 outside fires. About 28% of fires started by fireworks were reported on Independence Day in 2009-2013.

Fireworks have also been the cause of very serious injuries, and often times children are involved. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 35% of the people seen in emergency rooms for fireworks injuries from June 20-July 20, 2014 were under 15; 9% were under five. Sparklers alone accounted for 28% of the injuries.

Another thing to think about is your neighbors. Veterans with PTSD have been raising awareness about the unintended consequences of fireworks. Loud bangs and pops can sometimes trigger post-traumatic stress reactions. Children may also be startled out of sleep and have trouble understanding the noise and flashes of light.

Fireworks can also be very traumatic for Hutto pets. Hutto Animal Control reminds residents to make sure you're pets are microchipped before the festivities begin. The safest and kindest thing pet owners can do is keep animals inside with a television or radio playing to help cover the noise. Often times, pets can hear and feel pyrotechnic displays that are several miles away.

The best, and safest way to enjoy fireworks is to visit a professional display. Local communities all around Hutto will be lighting the sky with a variety of unique firecrackers. Make it an event to remember and start a family tradition of kicking back, relaxing and enjoying the show! Your neighbors, our Hutto Police Officers and Hutto Fire Rescue will thank you! Happy 4th of July, Hutto!



* Illegal under federal law.

Source: CPSC's 2014 Fireworks Annual Report. Only injuries from June 20-July 20, 2014 were included.