



Chelan County *Fire Prevention & Investigation*

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Fire Marshal: Please respect fireworks ban this July 4th *Temperatures are heating up, drying out wildfire fuels*

The Chelan County fire marshal reminds the public that fireworks are banned throughout the county. The use of personal fireworks is not allowed in any of the unincorporated areas of Chelan County, as well as the cities of Cashmere, Wenatchee and Leavenworth and on federal lands.

“We are asking people to respect these fireworks bans and give our local firefighters a break this July 4th holiday,” Fire Marshal Stephen Rinaldi said. “Now is not the time to be complacent. Temperatures are heating up out there, drying out grasses and other fuels that have grown tall over an unusually cool, wet spring.”

There are approximately 1,000 fireworks-related emergencies across the state each year, with fireworks-related fires causing millions of dollars in damages, according to the Washington State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Rinaldi also reminds the public that there may be legal consequences for any injuries or damages caused by the irresponsible use of fireworks. Consequences can range from being charged with an infraction to a felony, as well as monetary penalties or claims.

“While fireworks are readily available for purchase, their use in Chelan County is banned year-round, with the exception of New Year’s Eve. We ask that you skip those backyard fireworks and take in one of the professional displays in Wenatchee, Chelan or Manson,” Rinaldi said. “Even though our area has experienced a slow start to wildfire season this year, that doesn’t mean it’s not around the corner.”

Chelan County has adopted new language for its fire hazard levels. It is now under a Stage 1, formerly called Moderate. To keep up on the current fire hazard level, visit the county’s website at www.co.chelan.wa.us.