



**CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN EAST PALO ALTO
POLICE TO IMPLEMENT "ZERO TOLERANCE" POLICY FOR 4TH OF JULY

On May 20, 2008, the City Council amended Municipal Code Section 8.20 (Fireworks) to prohibit **all** fireworks in the City of East Palo Alto, including the so-called "safe and sane" fireworks. This action was recommended by both the East Palo Alto Police Chief and Menlo Park Fire District Chief based on the severity and dangerous nature of firework activity last year, and the continuing threat fireworks pose to public safety.

California is faced with a devastating fire season this year with hundreds of wild fires still active throughout the State. Fireworks contribute greatly to that threat; especially in East Palo Alto where defensible space is limited and the proximity of houses can cause a fire to spread quickly and destroy numerous buildings and places lives at risk.

Consequently, the Police Department will implement a "zero tolerance" policy for the 4th of July. The Department has cancelled days off for officers and will more than double the number of officers in the field on the 4th. Officers will be directed to confiscate all fireworks and issue citations for all violators, including citing the parents of minors caught possessing and/or using fireworks.

The Police Department will arrest and seek criminal charges against any person caught using fireworks which result in a fire or injuries.

The Police Department will also strictly enforce the existing 11:00p.m. to 6:00a.m. curfew and cite all violators.

Please help us make this 4th of July safe and enjoyable for all of our residents by not using fireworks.

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