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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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Celebrate Safely This Fourth of July: Fireworks Are Illegal Within El Paso City Limits

EL PASO, Texas—As El Paso families prepare to celebrate Independence Day and the nation's 250th birthday, the City of El Paso is reminding residents that **the sale, possession, and use of fireworks are prohibited within city limits.**

With fireworks activity often beginning days before the holiday and continuing afterward, City officials are encouraging residents to celebrate responsibly and leave fireworks displays to trained professionals.

Under City Ordinance No. 019521, individuals found selling, possessing, or discharging fireworks within the City of El Paso may face a Class C misdemeanor citation and fines of up to \$500.

"As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday and the Fourth of July with family and friends, we encourage everyone to put safety first," said Capt. Carlos Ornelas of the El Paso Fire Marshal's Office. "Illegal fireworks can cause serious injuries and fires, and we encourage residents to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals and enjoy the many public celebrations taking place throughout the community."

Fireworks can cause severe burns, eye injuries, hearing damage, and permanent disfigurement. They also present a significant fire danger, particularly during periods of hot, dry weather. Even a small spark from a firework or sparkler can ignite grass, brush, vehicles, or structures, leading to rapidly spreading fires.

Illegal fireworks activity that results in injury or property damage may also lead to additional criminal charges, including criminal mischief or arson. Law enforcement personnel will be actively enforcing the City's fireworks ordinance before, during, and after the Fourth of July holiday, when the use of illegal fireworks typically increases across the community.

Residents looking for ways to celebrate Independence Day and America's 250th anniversary can find a full calendar of local events and activities at [VisitElPaso.com/America250](https://www.elpaso.com/America250).

To report illegal fireworks activity within the City of El Paso, residents may call the City's non-emergency number at (915) 832-4400 or dial 3-1-1.

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