



# Snohomish Co. Fire District #17

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Celebrate Safely this Fourth of July**

Fireworks are often used to celebrate special events and holidays, such as 4th of July. However, there are many areas of Snohomish County where firework discharge is banned or limited to specific days and times of the year. Each year, fireworks cause thousands of burns and eye injuries across the country. As the 4<sup>th</sup> of July approaches, Granite Falls Fire reminds the community to be safe when celebrating the holiday.

In 2015, according to the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, fireworks caused an estimated \$627,080 in property loss. In Snohomish County there were 88 total incidents, which included 32 fireworks-related fires and 56 fireworks-related injuries.

All fireworks including those purchased at legal stands can be destructive or deadly if handled irresponsibly. Even the smallest of fireworks, such as sparklers, can reach 1200-1800 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to cause third degree burns.

Granite Falls Fire recommends these precautions for adults choosing to use fireworks:

- Buy only legal fireworks (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place.
- Keep a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher on hand in case a firework malfunctions or needs to be cooled before disposal. Know how to operate a fire extinguisher. Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash.
- Make sure pets are secured indoors; animals may experience anxiety from the noise.
- Be a good neighbor and be respectful of your neighbors' property, family and pets.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place, away from children and pets.
- Do not allow children to light or handle fireworks.
- Do not try to relight fireworks that malfunction.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or hold them close to your face.
- Do not modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.

The use of fireworks in Granite Falls and unincorporated Snohomish County is permitted on *July 4th from 9am to 11:59pm only (the City of Granite Falls: July 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am to midnight)*. **Fireworks are banned in Snohomish County Parks, any school properties, and National Forest Land.** Make note that most fireworks bought on the reservation are considered illegal and purchasing fireworks through the internet is illegal.

Granite Falls Fire does not endorse the use of consumer fireworks and instead encourages the public to enjoy displays of fireworks conducted by trained professionals. Be safe and enjoy your 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

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Attached: 2016-Fireworks Safety Tips

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*Fire Commissioners*  
Kevin Hayes, Ron Stephenson, Jesse James

*Fire Chief*  
Jim Haverfield