



\*\*\* For Immediate Release \*\*\*

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**Date:** July 2, 2018  
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## Fireworks Danger

**Wenatchee** - In 2017, 63 wildland and vegetation fires accounted for 76 percent of all fireworks-related fires reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office; resulting in over \$8,600 of loss and damages.

Summer weather conditions in Eastern, WA have made vegetation extremely dry and susceptible to fire. While discharging fireworks, a small fire can easily get out of control if the fuels (grass and other vegetation) are present.

In the event of a fire, call 911 first and if safety allows, use a hose or a bucket of water to heavily soak the area. Be sure to check the area for hot spots that could rekindle later.

A person found responsible for starting a fire with fireworks can be required to pay restitution for the fire suppression costs and damages caused by the fire. This could be in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars.

Sale of consumer fireworks began June 28, 2018, at noon and ends on July 5, 2018, at 9:00 pm. A number of city and counties have restricted or banned the sale and discharge of fireworks. Be sure to check with your local jurisdiction before using fireworks.

Attending a public display is a safe and fun alternative to enjoy fireworks. To learn more about fireworks safety and a community fireworks display near you, visit our website at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks/>.

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