



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 29, 2014
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RIVERSIDE POLICE AND FIRE ENCOURAGE SAFE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

RIVERSIDE, CA – The City of Riverside Fire and Police Departments welcome the coming New Year by encouraging safe celebrations and reminding residents that shooting fireworks and/or guns in the City of Riverside is strictly illegal. New Year's Eve is a cause for celebration, but not at the expense of safety.

When most people think of fireworks, they think of large bottle rockets, roman candles, and firecrackers; however the ban includes sparklers. Sparklers can reach 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. In the United States, approximately half of all fireworks injuries are burns; sparklers, fountains, and novelties account for a large number of emergency room fireworks injuries. Illegal fireworks are also the cause of multiple structure, vehicle, and brush fires annually. Those responsible for the use of fireworks can be held liable for the damage caused, as well as fire suppression costs and parents are liable for damage caused by their children.

Some people celebrate by shooting firearms into the air. Shooting a firearm is illegal in Riverside or any urban area of California. The sound of shooting may be misunderstood, and it can be very dangerous. What goes up must come down, somewhere. Even celebration shooting can cause tragedy. Not only is it extremely hazardous to shoot guns in the air it is also a Felony, punishable by time in prison. The reckless shooter of a gun can lose possession of their firearms forever. Reckless and unnecessary shootings cause serious injury and death to people every year.

Additionally, reports of celebrative gunfire and resulting injuries are a drain on the resources of the police and fire and might make us unavailable to respond to other emergency calls.

The Riverside Police and Fire Departments remind all members of the community to please be responsible and don't celebrate in a reckless manner. Let's work together to ensure a safe and happy New Year for all.

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