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Legal fireworks allowed on beach, but only in designated area

By Pacifica Tribune

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Legal fireworks allowed on Pacifica State Beach, but only in a designated area.

In a compromise decision, the Pacifica City Council last month accepted the recommendations of the Fireworks Task Force Committee, which limits "Safe and Sane" fireworks on Linda Mar Beach.

As a result of the June 10 vote, the only beach area in the City of Pacifica where "Safe and Sane" fireworks will be allowed will be on Linda Mar Beach directly west of the north Linda Mar Beach parking lot.

This area will extend to approximately 10 feet east of the tideline and from north of the Taco Bell Restaurant to the north end of the Linda Mar Beach parking lot. Two alternate sites are also being provided at the south Linda Mar Beach parking lot (asphalt area) and the south Rockaway Beach parking lot (asphalt area).

No fireworks will be allowed on any other beach in Pacifica.

The beach areas are not being closed for the public's enjoyment, but the beach areas are being restricted for the use of fireworks, authorities said.

One of the main concerns of the Fireworks Task Force Committee was the litter created by fireworks ending up in the ocean and presenting a potential danger to sea life as well as the environmental impact of excessive litter left on the beach. All citizens are being asked to clean up after their fireworks, whether at the beach or in their neighborhoods. Additional trash receptacles will be made available at the defined Linda Mar Beach area and in the south Linda Mar Beach parking lot and south Rockaway Beach parking lot.

The nonprofit groups who benefit from the sales of the "Safe and Sane" fireworks will meet the following day, July 5, at 7:30 a.m. at Linda Mar Beach and Rockaway Beach to conduct clean-up. These groups will also meet on July 20 at Linda Mar Beach near Taco Bell and Aug. 3 at the south Rockaway Beach parking lot at 9 a.m. in coordination with the Pacifica Beach Coalition. The public is invited to participate in these efforts in keeping Pacifica clean.

As in previous years, it is illegal to possess any fireworks within the Pacifica city limits that are not approved by the California State Fire Marshall as "Safe and Sane." Legal fireworks can be easily identified by a state fire marshal seal on the packaging and firework device. The Pacifica Police Department will assume a "zero tolerance" approach toward possessing illegal fireworks. Persons who have other than "Safe and Sane" fireworks are subject to arrest and a \$1,000 administrative fine.

-- Tribune staff

North County Fire Authority urges safe use of legal fireworks with some helpful tips

As in previous years the North County Fire Authority will be augmenting staffing on the July 4th holiday in preparation of potential emergencies during the celebrations, but we need the public's assistance in avoiding the use of illegal fireworks, which can cause fires, injury or even death and may exceed or overwhelm emergency response resources.

Fourth of July celebrations traditionally present a large fire danger to citizens. They are the cause of a great number of fires and burn injuries due to the misuse and mishandling of fireworks. Nationally, more than \$36 million in property is damaged each year due to fireworks. Annually, hospitals across the nation report thousands of cases of burn injuries caused by fireworks. Most

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firework burn injuries involve children and are usually burns to the hands and eyes causing vision impairment and disfiguring scars.

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The North County Fire Authority encourages everyone to follow all directions on Safe and Sane fireworks, and to take all proper safety precautions:

- Use only legal fireworks approved by the California State Fire Marshal.
- Inspect all fireworks. Never use damaged or leaking fireworks.
- Never give fireworks to a small child.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Light only one item at a time. Drop any "dud" fireworks into a pail of water.
- Keep spectators at least 10 feet away.
- Use fireworks in a clear area at least 20 feet away from a house, wood fence or brush.
- Light fireworks in a large safe area of dirt, pavement or gravel at least 10 feet square in size.
- Have a pail of water ready to place used or malfunctioning fireworks in.
- Do not point fireworks at anyone.
- If someone is injured or a fire is started, call 9-1-1 immediately.

-- Tribune staff

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