



Cowlitz County

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Joint Statement Regarding Fireworks

The Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners, City of Kelso, and City of Longview have received many requests from concerned citizens asking to ban fireworks this year due to the extreme fire danger. It's important that citizens know that the county and cities take these concerns very seriously and are sending out this statement to ask that everyone please exercise absolute caution and restraint this year while using fireworks to celebrate Independence Day.

It's also important that the public know that the county and cities cannot legally enact a ban this year on the use of fireworks, even under a declared emergency; as legal counsel has advised that such a change to the fireworks ordinance can only be initiated and become effective one year after its adoption.

The County Fire marshal, City of Longview Fire Department, and Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue had this to add to the joint statement: "We are asking all residents to consider not using personal fireworks and to instead show your support by celebrating Independence Day at a commercial fireworks display, such as the Go Fourth Festival located at Lake Sacajawea; the largest annual family-oriented festival in greater Cowlitz County."