

As the long-cherished Fourth of July holiday approaches, I'm filled with the same sense of excitement and anticipation that many of you share. This day of unity and celebration, marked with barbecues, parades, and traditionally, fireworks, is a cornerstone of our shared American experience.

However, as we prepare to commemorate our nation's independence, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of safety, particularly regarding our voter-approved fireworks ban within Renton and Unincorporated King County.

I understand the deep-rooted tradition of lighting fireworks to celebrate this grand holiday, but the ban, enacted with the best interests of our community in mind, serves to protect both the health of our residents and the safety of our homes and natural spaces during these warmer, drier months.

Fireworks, while spectacular to behold, pose significant fire and personal safety risks. By adhering to this ban, we greatly reduce the potential for accidents, injuries, and wildfires, ensuring a safe holiday for everyone in our community.

For City of Renton residents who need to report a fireworks or noise violation this Fourth, please use our nonemergency number at 425-235-2121. For residents of Unincorporated King County, violations can be reported at www.kingcounty.gov/reportfireworks. In the case of an immediate danger to life or property, please do not hesitate to call 9-1-1. Your vigilance plays a crucial role in maintaining the safety of our community.

While the absence of personal fireworks may mark a change in how we celebrate, let us remember that the essence of this holiday lies in the unity, shared history, and shared hope that brings us together as a community and as a nation.

There are many ways we can express our patriotic spirit and rejoice in the freedom we honor on this day. Let's continue to show our love for our country and our community by celebrating safely and responsibly.

Thank you for your understanding, your cooperation, and your commitment to ensuring a safe and joyful holiday for all.

Wishing you all a memorable, safe, and happy Fourth of July.

Sincerely,

Steve Heitman, Fire Chief Renton Regional Fire Authority





