



Yucaipa City Council Approves Stricter Fireworks Fines to Protect Against Wildfire Risk this 4th of July

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Yucaipa, CA — To safeguard residents and reduce wildfire threats, on May 12, the Yucaipa City Council approved an aggressive increase in fines for illegal fireworks use to \$3,000 for a first offense, \$5,000 for the second offense and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation.

The City's updated fireworks policy is a direct response to the heightened risk of wildfires in Yucaipa's wildland-urban interface zones. Surrounded by dry brush, steep terrain, and frequent winds, the community faces some of the highest wildfire risks in the region.

"Our region can't afford to take chances when it comes to fire," said Yucaipa Fire Chief Grant Malinowski. "These tougher penalties send a clear message: if you use illegal fireworks in Yucaipa, you're putting lives at risk."

The previous fine for fireworks violations was just \$100, an amount city staff and public safety officials deemed ineffective at deterring illegal activity. By adopting a fine structure consistent with neighboring high-risk communities, the City aims to reduce dangerous behavior and better support enforcement and emergency response efforts.

In addition to increasing fines, the approval of Ordinance No. 457 grants enforcement authority to the Police Department, Fire Department, Code Enforcement, and Public Works Rangers, and allows for the seizure and disposal of fireworks.

The new ordinance is part of Yucaipa's broader public safety strategy ahead of high-fire-risk holidays such as Independence Day and New Year's Eve.

Residents are reminded that all fireworks are illegal in Yucaipa, including "safe and sane" fireworks, unless part of a permitted City-sponsored display.