



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

7/1/21

**TCDA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND TULARE COUNTY FIRE
DEPARTMENT CONFISCATE ILLEGAL FIREWORKS AHEAD OF
HOLIDAY**

In the weeks leading up to this 4th of July weekend, investigators from the TCDA Bureau of Investigations and Tulare County Fire Department removed 540 pounds of illegal fireworks off the streets. During a series of joint operations targeting sales, investigators worked to intercept dangerous “Illegal” fireworks that have been brought into the county in preparation for July 4th celebrations. Investigators made two arrests and cited two others for sales and possession.

“Illegal fireworks being set off for weeks leading up to the 4th of July impact the quality of life for our residents, particularly children and pets,” said TCDA Chief Investigator Lindy Gligorijevic. “This is reckless, dangerous, and foolish behavior with absolute no regard for the safety of their neighbors and we are happy that we made a dent in this illegal activity.”

The Tulare County Fire Department has already responded to multiple reports of fires that were found to be started by illegal fireworks. Last year, TCFD responded to 33 fires confirmed to be related to illegal or careless use of fireworks, with many more suspected of being started by fireworks. Please leave the fireworks to the professionals and attend a public firework display.

“We continue to see an increase in fires due to both illegal and safe and sane fireworks,” said Tulare County Fire Chief Charlie Norman. “With the dry conditions we are experiencing this year, we anticipate a very busy 4th of July.”

The Tulare County Fire Department will have investigators out this 4th of July to enforce both state and local laws. If residents are found to be in possession, storing, discharging, or transporting illegal fireworks, citations will be issued and those fireworks will be confiscated. Fines for illegal fireworks start at \$1000.00 and a person in possession could lead to criminal charges. Possession of 100 pounds or more of illegal fireworks can result in a felony.

Many cities have increased fines for possession and use of illegal fireworks this 4th of July. Report illegal fireworks to local law enforcement or fire authorities.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
Supervising Criminal Investigator Gregg White (559) 636-5410 or the Tulare County Fire
Department Public Information Officer at 559-624-0628*