

Illegal Fireworks Fizzle the Fourth of July Celebration

SSFR & SSPD Share Tips for a Safe and Fun Holiday

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-June 30, 2025-As Independence Day approaches, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue (SSFR) and the Steamboat Springs Police Department (SSPD) are reminding residents and visitors to celebrate safely — and legally — when it comes to fireworks.

“Last year alone, fireworks and sparklers caused an estimated 9,700 injuries and sparked an average of 18,500 fires,” said Fire Chief Chuck Cerasoli. “We’re strongly recommending that everyone ground any plans to put on their own fireworks show and extinguish the use of all illegal fireworks.”

In Steamboat Springs, only certain types of fireworks are legal. Permissible fireworks include non-explosive, ground-based items such as fountains, ground spinners, illuminating torches, dipped sticks and sparklers, toy propellants, and trick noise makers that crackle or whistle (but do not explode). These can be used by individuals aged 16 and older.

Fireworks that launch into the air or explode — such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, cherry bombs, mortars, and M-80s — are illegal in Colorado, including Steamboat Springs. Possessing or using illegal fireworks in Steamboat Springs is a petty offense, punishable by fines of up to \$300 and/or up to 10 days in jail.

“With conditions rapidly drying out, the risk of wildfire increases,” said Police Chief Mark Beckett. “Beyond the fire danger, surprise fireworks can have serious effects on veterans, those with sensory sensitivities, and pets. We’ll be out patrolling, and citations will be issued for illegal use.”

The Humane Society also reminds residents that the loud noises associated with fireworks can frighten pets, often leading to an increase in lost or stray animals. Pet owners are urged to keep animals indoors during celebrations, ensure pets wear ID collars, and consider microchipping for extra protection.

The best way to enjoy the evening sky? Head to the free drone show at the Steamboat Ski Resort, starting at 9:00 PM. The display features a dazzling array of choreographed lights and shapes set to music — all with no loud bangs or fire danger.

Let’s make this Fourth of July memorable for the right reasons. Stay safe, stay legal, and enjoy the celebration responsibly.

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NO LAUNCH ZONE



**FIREWORKS
PROHIBITED**