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## **Riverside County residents reminded of fireworks dangers**

As Riverside County residents prepare to celebrate the Fourth of July, it's important to remember the hazards associated with one of the most exciting activities associated with the summer holiday – fireworks.

“With the unprecedented drought conditions (in California), one spark can lead to a devastating wildland fire,” said Riverside County Fire Chief John R. Hawkins in a public service announcement video.

According to Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser, the threats posed to one's health are just as serious.

“Fireworks can cause severe burns and may even result in the loss of fingers or limbs if not handled properly,” Kaiser said. “It's just not worth it.”

Hawkins noted that fireworks are illegal throughout most parts of Riverside County for the risks that they pose to humans and even animals that can become traumatized by the loud sounds.

Residents found in possession of illegal fireworks will face fines up to \$500 and the fireworks will be confiscated.

Hawkins added: “Please leave fireworks to the professionals.”

To learn more about fireworks safety, visit [www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org).

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