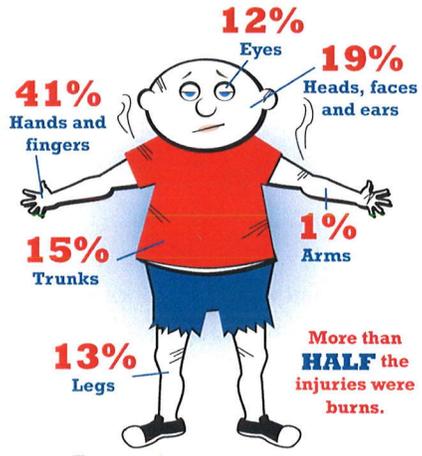


# ENJOY THE 4<sup>TH</sup> RESPECT THE BAN

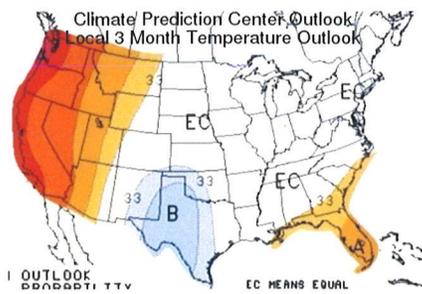
## HELP US HELP YOU ENJOY A FAMILY-FRIENDLY 4TH

### Most Injured Body Parts



Bellevue residents and communities across the country come together on the 4th of July to enjoy a variety of events, culminating with spectacular fireworks displays. Fireworks shows have been an integral part of our Independence Day celebrations since 1776. However, fireworks, when used incorrectly, can cause great harm to us, our pets and our communities. **The use of fireworks has been illegal in Bellevue since 1994, except for permitted displays.** Nonetheless, the City of Bellevue routinely receives complaints about the use of fireworks throughout the year, particularly around the 4th of July. Between July 5, 2014 and March 13, 2015 NORCOM (911) received 210 calls regarding the use of fireworks.

Each July 4th, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks, such as fires, devastating burns, injuries and even death. In 2013, there were 239 reported injuries in Washington State, including 6 that resulted in amputations. Because the month of July is usually very dry, fireworks are the unfortunate and unintended cause of fires every year. During 2013, there were 102 reported fires caused by fireworks, which resulted in \$2,002,650 of property loss in the State of Washington. We have already had 16 brush fires this year, 8 of which occurred this March. If this trend continues into July, the City of Bellevue could be facing tinder-dry conditions and a greater risk of fires resulting from fireworks. The National Weather Service is currently predicting above average temperatures for the period of April – June.





Not only are people and property affected by fireworks, but pets are often impacted during this time period, as well. Here are some tips for your pets:

- Keep your pets indoors and close the curtains or blinds. Turn on the TV or radio to provide some distraction.
- A quiet place, such as a carrier or crate, may provide your pet with a sense of security and comfort.
- If you must be outside with your pet, use a leash or carrier to keep your pet from running off, which is a common response to stress and fear.
- Practice good fire safety. Keep pets away from matches, open fires and fireworks – especially ones that are lighted on the ground. Pets may try to sniff (or eat) fireworks and pet hair can easily catch fire if too close to the fireworks.
- Take pets for a walk before dark and before the fireworks start.
- Make sure that your pet has proper identification tags, with current information, in case your pet gets away.
- Consider micro-chipping your pet.

## How to celebrate the 4th of July in a fun and safe way

Bellevue Fire and Police recommend that people take advantage of the elaborate public displays in Bellevue and throughout the region. These displays are done by licensed professionals in coordination with the Fire Department with the safety of everyone as a primary focus. Please consider treating your family to a fun 4th of July this year by attending one of these free public fireworks displays ([www.bellevue.com/fireworks.php](http://www.bellevue.com/fireworks.php)):

- Bellevue Family 4th – Bellevue Downtown Park
- Newcastle 4th of July Celebration – Lake Boren Park
- 4th of July Celebration – Marina Park

The best way to protect you and your family is to not use fireworks – period. We are asking for your help in making this 4th of July a safe and fun day. Please help us spread the word that **fireworks are illegal in Bellevue. Bellevue Police and Fire Departments will be conducting fireworks safety patrols throughout the City of Bellevue, and those patrols will include enforcement.** Please keep your community safe by observing the fireworks ban ordinance.

Remember, the use and/or sale of fireworks, except for permitted displays, is illegal in Bellevue and may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor or treated as a civil violation where monetary penalties could be assessed.

## Want more information?

- Public transportation: [www.triplanner.kingcounty.gov/](http://www.triplanner.kingcounty.gov/)
- Consumer Product Safety Commission: [www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks/](http://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks/)
- Washington State Fire Marshal's Office: [www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/fireworks.htm](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/fireworks.htm)
- National Fire Protection Association: [www.nfpa.org/~media/files/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets/fireworkssafetytips.pdf?la=en](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets/fireworkssafetytips.pdf?la=en)

