

Benton County

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TO: Tri-City Media
FROM: Ken Williams, Fire Marshal
SUBJECT: Fireworks Safety - Press Release

The unincorporated areas of Benton County has one fireworks stand at the corner of Cochrane and 397. Richland and Benton City are the only cities that sell fireworks that are legal to be setoff in the unincorporated areas of Benton County. Though West Richland does have fireworks stands, some of the fireworks sold in West Richland are illegal to possess in the unincorporated areas of the county.

In addition to the State's illegal fireworks, all aeriels, firecrackers, smoke bombs, roman candles, chasers, helicopters (Aerial spinners), jumping jacks, ground spinners, and mines or shells are **illegal** in the **unincorporated** areas of Benton County. \$1,000.00 per occurrence is the maximum fine for illegally discharging or possessing fireworks.

Fireworks may **ONLY** be discharged in the unincorporated areas of Benton County between

1. 12:00 noon and 11:00 pm on Sunday, June 28th.
2. 9:00 am and 11:00 pm on Monday June 29th through Friday July 3rd.
3. 9:00 am and 12:00 midnight on Saturday July 4th.
4. 9:00 am and 11:00 pm on Sunday, July 5th
5. Christmas Holidays
 - a. Selling - RCW 70.77.395 (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.77.395>) permits selling from Dec. 27th through Dec. 31st
 - b. Discharging - RCW 70.77.395 (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.77.395>) permits discharging only from 6:00 pm on December 31 and 1:00 a.m. on January 1st.

Kennewick, Pasco, Prosser, Connell, and Franklin County, has banned the selling and discharging of all individual fireworks within their jurisdictions.

Since 2011, 34 fireworks fires have been reported to the Benton County Fire Marshal's Office.

Give me a ring if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Ken