

Bureau of Emergency Communications

9-1-1 Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Noisy Fireworks Calls To 9-1-1

Modified response between July 1st & July 5th

July 4th is typically one of the busiest days of the year for 9-1-1. On any given day, the Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) receives nearly five thousand 9-1-1 and non-emergency telephone calls. On July 4th, we can expect that number to increase...drastically. What does this mean for 9-1-1? More importantly, what does this mean for the citizens of Multnomah County?

If you call 9-1-1 or non-emergency, you may wait on hold for someone to answer. The length of time you wait will vary depending on the time of day you call, how many other people are calling 9-1-1 to report the same problem, etc. Our mission at BOEC is to serve the public by providing the vital link between citizens in need with the proper emergency service responder by means of the most efficient operating systems available.

We want to remind people to **dial 9-1-1 only in the event of an emergency**. If it is not happening right now, it most likely is not an emergency. Do not dial 9-1-1 to complain about fireworks unless they are creating a fire hazard or there is an immediate threat to life or property. Do not dial 9-1-1 to ask for the non-emergency number; it is on the inside cover of the phonebook. And please lock the keypad on your cell phone to avoid inadvertently dialing 9-1-1.

We made this same type of plea last year and the citizens of Multnomah County listened. Our call volume over the 4th of July weekend last year was greatly reduced. By helping us cut down on the number of erroneous calls we receive, you might be saving a life. The life you help save just may be someone you know and love. If you would like more information about 9-1-1 and the non emergency number, visit our website at:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/911>

Call 9-1-1 to – Stop a Crime - Report a Fire – Save a Life

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Safety tips from [The National Council On Fireworks Safety](#)

To help you celebrate safely this Fourth of July, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following safety tips:

Always read and follow label directions.

Have an adult present.

Buy from reliable sellers.

Use outdoors only.

Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).

Never experiment or make your own fireworks.

Light only one firework at a time.

Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).

Never give fireworks to small children.

If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.

Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan.

Never throw or point fireworks at other people.

Never carry fireworks in your pocket.

Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.

Stay away from illegal explosives.