



City of Ketchum

News Release
June 30, 2015

Ketchum Hopes for Another Safe Fourth of July

No Fireworks Violations Last Year

KETCHUM, Idaho -- Ketchum police are hoping to see no violations of fireworks laws for the second year in a row, Ketchum Police Chief David Kassner said.

"After two major forest fires in recent years, people are realizing the dangers of aerial fireworks, which are illegal in Idaho," he added. "We used to write 10 to 15 citations a year. Last year was the first Fourth I remember when we saw no violations."

Nevertheless, he said the department intends to continue its aggressive stance against illegal fireworks, and a new state law will make it easier to enforce laws prohibiting aerial fireworks.

The city's roadside electric signboards also are reminding people of the danger from fireworks. "We've received lots of good comments about the one with the message, 'Don't be *that* guy,'" he said.

Violators now can be charged with an infraction, rather than a misdemeanor, making it easier for officers to write citations, he said. The fine for a violation is a fixed fee of \$154.50, while the fine for a misdemeanor is up to the judge in each case.

All firecrackers and aerial fireworks are illegal in Ketchum. Fireworks also are illegal if they emit sparks that go more than 20 feet in the air or travel outside a circle 15 feet in diameter. This means that bottle rockets, "jumping jacks" and similar products, as well as aerial fireworks, are illegal for personal use.

It is legal to celebrate with sparklers, smoke bombs, "snakes," ground spinners and fountains less than 20 feet high.

However, if a fire starts because of fireworks, the person responsible may be held liable for damages.

Details on the law in Ketchum are at <http://ketchumidaho.org/index.aspx?NID=166>.

###

About the City of Ketchum

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

Contact:

Lisa Enourato
(208) 720-9766, lenourato@ketchumidaho.org

Jo Murray
(208) 726-5869, jo@jomurray.com