

Memorandum



DATE June 7, 2019

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) Fireworks Response Plan**

As we get closer to the July 4th holiday, I wanted to share with you some of the new initiatives and strategies Dallas Fire-Rescue will be implementing. It is our intent to be proactive in addressing the use of illegal fireworks, as well as use this opportunity to engage and educate the citizens on fire safety.

The Inspection and Investigations Division of DFR is looking to host two (2) neighborhood block parties, one in the northern sector of the city and one in the southern sector. Based on previous year's data received from DPD and our Communications, Inspection, and Investigations Divisions, we decided to host the block parties at the following locations:

- Polk Park Neighborhood – 6801 Roper Street
- Roseland Homes – 3335 Munger Avenue

These areas were determined to have the highest use of illegal fireworks. The parties will take place between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. to cover the peak hours when fireworks are most used. We anticipate approximately 200 participants per sector. Our plan is to have food, drinks, a DJ, and fire prevention educational activities for entertainment. We are seeking potential sponsorship and marketing from local radio stations to assist with the cost of the food and DJ. The logistics of street closures and possible changes to emergency routes will be coordinated by four Fire Inspectors and four Peace Officers (DPD or Arson Investigators).

Various measures are being taken to ensure enforcement is being handled accordingly. We have contacted surrounding cities to include, Ft. Worth, Tyler, San Antonio, and Waco regarding their July 4th initiatives. Of these cities contacted, 4th of July enforcement is minimum, and entails neighborhood patrol staffed by uniformed fire personnel only or team patrol with local police officers. DFR is also in the process of surveying other cities.

In accordance with the State Fire Marshal's office procedures, the inspections division has filed an Open Records Request with the State of Texas licensing/permit division to obtain a list of all locations that have received a license to sell fireworks within the City of Dallas. Upon receipt of the locations, the community prosecution team will be assigned to obtain administrative warrants to confiscate and issue citations for possession of illegal fireworks.

Best practices/protocol for issuing a citation for possession when faced with issues such as juveniles and refusal of identification has been reviewed and discussed with DPD for continuity of operations. DPD/Fire Inspector team ride outs will operate as in previous years, one team per DPD patrol area. Each team will be staffed with 3 (three) members, 1 (one) DPD officer and 2 (two) fire inspectors.

Inspectors will be assigned to patrol White Rock Lake and Mountain Creek Lake for enforcement and prevention measures. Three (3) wildland boosters will be staffed on July 4th to patrol high risk areas from noon until 2am. These proactive measures will help to reduce the reflex time required to get resources on location over the holiday weekend when incidents occur. The Emergency Response Bureau will also place Marine 1 in service at Lake Ray Hubbard on July 4th from noon until 10PM. This will be repeated on July 5th and 6th to provide for the safety of the citizens over the holiday weekend.

Management of Operations will occur as follows: one officer (Lt. or above) will be assigned to the communications division to assist with response assignment related to fireworks incidents. One officer (Captain) assigned to 5000 Dolphin Road for fireworks intake, weighing, and storage in a designated bunker. Section Chiefs will oversee community engagement activities to include block parties, area parks and lakes.

Chief assignments are specifically related to safety of citizens, officers, enforcement, and to serve as a liaison for field officers and Deputy Chiefs of Prevention. Deputy Chiefs will be the point of contact and liaison for Emergency Response Deputy Chiefs, Command Staff members for DFR, DPD, and Council Members and any issues escalated beyond Section Chiefs.

We are asking and encouraging all citizens to enjoy one of many sanctioned events throughout the city, to be safe, and refrain from the use of illegal fireworks.



Dominique Artis, Fire Chief
Dallas Fire-Rescue Department