

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE July 15, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire-Rescue's 4th of July Summary**

Traditionally, July 4th is a period of heavy response activity for our police and fire departments. To enhance public safety and mitigate the anticipated rise in Fire/EMS emergencies, Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) carefully prepares and coordinates resources for the holiday celebrations. This year, DFR amplified enforcement efforts to discourage the illegal use of fireworks within city limits to mitigate fireworks related injuries and property damage. Statistical information for DFR's emergency responses tied to potential fireworks involvement is as follows:

Problem	July 1-3, 2022, Avg Count per day	July 4, 2022 Shift Count	July 4, 2021 Shift Count	FY21 Avg Count per normal day	FY20 Avg Count per normal day
02- Dumpster Fire	6.67	28	21	2.09	1.81
01- Grass Fire	29	258	16	4.02	3.79
04- Trash Fire	5.67	12	6	2.65	1.83
98- Structure Fire Reported	3	14	2	3.55	2.99
10F- Fire Reported Out	0	2	2	0.93	0.92
99- Structure Fire Working	2.67	5	3	2.26	2.26
08- Vehicle Fire	7.33	9	13	4.62	4.62
Totals	54.34	328	63	20.12	22.88

Not surprisingly, the data reveals that DFR responded to more fire related calls on July 4, 2022, compared to the daily average for these same types of calls made on other days during the year. However, this year represented a dramatic increase in the call volume, mostly due to the 258 calls for grass fires. While the extremely hot and dry conditions undoubtedly contributed to those incidents, further analysis is warranted to determine how much the holiday activities were responsible for the sharp increase. On a positive note, there was not an increase in structure fire activity over the weekend, which may be a sign of successful education and prevention campaigns.

The above chart clearly demonstrates the consistent and continued statistical trend that these types of calls are greatly increased on the July 4th holiday as compared to "normal" days throughout the year.

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DFR's Prevention and Investigation Bureau maintains a strong campaign to educate citizens on the danger of fireworks use, and designed a community engagement program comprised of alternate celebration activities and enforcement as follows:

Education

DFR's Inspections & Life Safety Education Division includes Fireworks safety information as part of their education program presentations beginning in late June. Graphic billboards and interview through a local news broadcast was used for messaging. These messages were echoed through Department Social Media outlets. Additionally, education efforts were especially concentrated in 120 multi-family dwellings that had demonstrated historically high fireworks activity.

Enforcement

Both DFR and the Dallas Police Department (DPD) increased their presence and commitment of personnel for enforcement purposes. DFR's Inspections Division, along with DPD, worked in a concerted effort to initiate proactive measures to prevent the discharge of illegal fireworks in the City of Dallas. Both departments responded to incidents and addressed citizen complaints regarding the possession or discharge of fireworks within the city limits of Dallas. In total, DFR and DPD confiscated 938.3 pounds of illegal fireworks and issued nine (9), class C violation citations for possession of illegal fireworks. Both figures represent a decrease from 2021 (13 citations issued, and 1299 lbs. confiscated). Fire and arson investigators were staffed to investigate fire incidents related to fireworks.

DFR, DPD, and various city of Dallas departments made a concerted effort to engage, educate and provide safety to the citizens during the holiday celebrations. We look to build on this year's success as we look ahead to next year's 4th of July celebrations.



Jon Fortune
Deputy City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors