

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE July 7, 2023

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 the fire department. 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 1-4, 2023, Avg Count per day	July 4, 2023, Shift Count	July 4, 2022, Shift Count	2022 Avg Count per normal day	2021 Avg Count per normal day
Dumpster Fire	8.50	23	28	2.43	2.09
Grass Fire	17.25	48	258	9.21	4.02
Trash Fire	8.25	18	12	3.53	2.65
Structure Fire Reported	3.25	3	14	3.98	3.55
Fire Reported Out	0.75	1	2	0.97	0.93
Structure Fire Working	2.00	3	5	2.63	2.26
Vehicle Fire	5.75	9	9	5.39	4.62
Totals	45.75	105	328	28.14	20.12

Not surprisingly, the data reveals that DFR responded to more calls potentially related to fireworks on and around the July 4th holiday in 2023 as compared to the daily average for these same types of calls made on other days during the year. However, this year represented a slight decrease in the call volume involving fires in structures. While this may be attributed in part to the holiday falling on a Tuesday, credit for this decrease must also be given to our Inspections and Education teams for their efforts in 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 June. Social media platforms were used for messaging. Additionally, education efforts were especially concentrated in 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 1309.6 pounds of illegal fireworks and issued nine (9), class C violation citations for possession of illegal fireworks. While less citations were issued, the fireworks confiscated was significantly higher than in 2022 (9 citations issued, and 938.3 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.



Dominique Artis
Fire Chief, Dallas Fire-Rescue

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Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

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M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
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Directors and Assistant Directors