EUGENE POLICE NEWS RELEASE
July 7, 2014
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Fireworks not legal unless used between June 23 and July 6, and December 31 and January 1.

Eugene Springfield Fire and Eugene Police and the Metro Explosive Disposal Unit have been taking steps to reduce the volume of unlawful displays, including through public service announcements, education and enforcement. This year, more emphasis was placed on outreach and enforcement. The goal is to raise awareness and reduce illegal fireworks hazards. June 24, 2014, the Eugene City Council approved two City Code changes to address the pervasive use of fireworks, which raises many concerns for the safety and wellbeing of animals, senior citizens, military veterans, refugees, and community members at large. There has also been concern regarding injuries and fires caused by fireworks that can damage property and the environment.

Eugene Police staffed additional officers on Friday July 4, from 8 p.m. to July 5 at 2 a.m., while Fire crews patrolled neighborhoods to note and report illegal fireworks activity.

Additional data regarding crime prevention efforts prior to the 4th will be available next week. For follow up interviews, the first availability should be Sunday July 6.

Fireworks Enforcement Statistics July 4 from 8 p.m. to July 5 at 2 a.m.

PRELIMINARY 2014 JULY 4 TOTAL ILLEGAL FIREWORKS CALLS ENTERED – 165
CONTACTS MADE BY ENFORCEMENT DETAIL – 68

- POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS CITATIONS - 9
- ADVISED REGARDING FIREWORKS USE - 16
- QUIET ON ARRIVAL OR GONE ON ARRIVAL - 35
- RESOLVED OR UNFOUNDED - 8

Social host warnings/cites/arrests:
Charged were:

- FACKLER, MATTHEW S.03201971  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- HOGANSEN, GARY L.08221954  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- EBA, ABRAHAM B.07211993  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- GALINDO, NICOLAS.10241990  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- CACERES, WOLFREDO A.09221982  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- BENWAY, RAYMOND JR.07151993  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- HETRICK, MARK VERNON.04171963  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- SILBERSTEIN, AARON N.10181974  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS
- VALENTINE, CALEB E.01021990  CLC - POSSESSION ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Previous Years – Illegal Fireworks Calls in Eugene

- 2013 = 247 calls
- 2012 = 177
- 2011 = 214
- 2010 = 133
- 2009 = 174

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City Code changes include:

1) Within Eugene, fireworks that are legal for retail purchase can be used only between June 23 and July 6 and December 31 and January 1. (City Code 4.934). Violation of the ordinance is punishable by jail and the base fine has been set at $250.

2) The use of illegal fireworks during anytime of the year, or the use of fireworks that are legal for retail purchase other than between June 23 and July 6 and December 31 and January 1, has been added to the Social Host ordinance (4.670).

The social host, or ordinance on unruly gatherings, holds individuals criminally responsible for hosting, organizing and allowing an unruly event or social gathering. Property owners where the event is hosted will also be penalized if there are multiple violations of this ordinance at the same property. The Eugene Municipal Court has assigned a base fine of $375 for criminal violations of this ordinance. Both hosts and property owners could be civilly liable for police, fire and public works response to repeated illegal gatherings that fall under this ordinance. For more information: SOCIAL HOST

Information about fireworks has also being sent out through media/social media, Neighborhood...
Watch groups, Neighborhood Associations, and fireworks vendors. ###