

COUNCIL MEMO

MEETING DATE: March 25, 2025

STAFF: Adam Hanks, City Administrator



Fireworks Regulations

BACKGROUND

At its June 2024 Council meeting, Council had a brief discussion regarding the potential value and desire for developing local regulations for fireworks use. Staff indicated that a number of cities in Oregon have fireworks regulations, some with limits, some with bans by dates/seasons and many cities have no local regulations. Additionally, cities vary considerably on enforcement policy and activity levels relating to enforcement, i.e. complaint driven vs. proactive.

The intent of this work session agenda item is to obtain staff direction on whether or not to develop draft fireworks regulations, which would be required to be formatted and presented as an ordinance with a public hearing and first and second readings. The question is being posed at the March work session to allow adequate time to develop, present and legally process any such regulating ordinance to be effective prior to the July 4th holiday when most firework related activity occurs. Below is a City of Eugene fireworks regulations FAQ webpage for general reference.

FAQs

- [Is there a fireworks ban in the City of Springfield?](#) ^

No. [Legal consumer fireworks](#) may be purchased between June 23 and July 6.

- [What is the Eugene City Council's fireworks ban?](#) ^

In 2022, the Eugene City Council voted 6-2 to ban fireworks in addition to the restrictions provided under state law within the city limits of Eugene due to the fire danger they pose and their impact to people and pets. The ban became effective on October 29, 2022.

- [What is the penalty for violating the ban?](#) ^

The ban penalty is a fine not to exceed \$500.

- [What fireworks are banned under the Eugene City Council's fireworks ban?](#) ^

It is unlawful to sell, use, light, detonate, or display any "consumer" fireworks anywhere in the city at any time. It is also unlawful to use, light, detonate, or display any "display" fireworks anywhere in the city at any time except July 3 through July 5, unless specifically authorized by the City Manager or designee.

- [What are display fireworks?](#) ^

Fireworks that fly in the air, explode, or behave in an uncontrolled and unpredictable manner. These are primarily aerial shells but may also include 1.4g fireworks or special effects fireworks. A commercial operator's certification and permit is required to use display fireworks.

- [What are consumer fireworks?](#) ^

[Legal consumer fireworks](#) are the type of legal fireworks that people can buy and use without a license. Examples include fountains, flitter sparklers, and ground spinners.

ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff has no specific recommendation to provide Council on this matter. Relevant points to consider include:

- History of fires caused by careless use of fireworks
- History of injury caused by careless use of fireworks
- Proximity of Coburg to wildfire interface zones or climates
- Enforcement capacity if fireworks regulations were enacted
- Public education/outreach necessary to communicate new regulations, if enacted