



MEMORANDUM

MEETING TYPE: REGULAR BOCC MEETING

MEETING DATE: JULY 25, 2023

ITEM NAME: Fourth Of July Fireworks Display After Action Report

SUBMITTED BY: Brittney Ciarlo, Emergency Manager

SUMMARY: Please find an After Action Report for your review of the first County ran firework display. This report includes an executive summary, what actually occurred, what went well and areas that could use improvement.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational only

BACKGROUND: The After Action Report meeting included those that assisted from the community, County employees and administration and members from the local Fire Department that were on scene.



HUERFANO — COUNTY — C O L O R A D O

To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
From: Brittney Ciarlo, Emergency Manager
Cheri Chamberlain and Ryan Sablich, Building/Code Enforcement Technicians
CC: Carl Young, County Administrator
Sky Tallman, Land Use Director
Date: Jul 25, 2023
RE: Fourth of July Fireworks Display After Action Report/Improvement Plan

Executive Summary

This was the first year Huerfano County coordinated the Fourth of July Fireworks Display. Coordination between County departments, outside volunteers and the local Fire Department made this possible. Two members of the group are taking proper safety courses to become fully certified next year. Ordering and event organization was put together by the County's Parks and Recreation Department. Set up took most of the day and final clean up occurred the next morning.

What was expected?

A 25-minute firework display over Lathrop State Park was expected with proper safety measures in place such as mitigation, fire department on scene, and traffic control.

What occurred?

The actual show took 1.5 hours to get through instead of the 25 minute show expected. Several plugs and embers/sparks were found up to 30 yards from the ignition site. Concerns regarding the site were mentioned by many. It is recommended that these types of fireworks require a minimum of 200 feet of open space. There were too many trees, too many vehicles in the secure area, and fire engine access was very limited.

What Worked Well?

No injuries or fires occurred during the event. Pick up and trash removal was successful as well as traffic control for the main location parking.

What Needs Improvement?

1. Option for better location for next year's event
 - a. Golf Course or La Veta Airport were mentioned as possibilities
2. Renting an electronic igniter to allow for safer ignition and more distance between ignitor and firework.
3. Earlier planning, purchasing and acquiring proper insurance.
 - a. Look into other company's options to purchase fireworks with insurance policy
 - b. More advertising for event
4. A Just in Time safety training and more practice should be completed with all igniters before the event takes place.