



City of Ketchum

June 16, 2021

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors
City of Ketchum
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

Recommendation To Adopt Ordinance #1219 Enacting a Temporary Ban on Fireworks

Recommendation and Summary

Staff is recommending the council Adopt the following motion:

“I move to adopt Ordinance #1219 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KETCHUM, BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO, FINDING AN IMMINENT PERIL TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE DUE TO SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS; PROHIBITING THE USE OF FIREWORKS IN THE CITY OF KETCHUM, PROVIDING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, A REPEALER CLASE, A PUBLICATION PROCESS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

The reasons for the recommendation are as follows:

- The city of Ketchum is in a stage 5 level drought, also known as an “Exceptional Drought”. This is the highest drought level recorded, and the worst drought ever recorded in the Big Wood Valley.
- April and May each recorded only 1 inch of rain in Ketchum. So far in June, only 1/10 of an inch has been recorded.
- 2020 was the hottest year on record globally and locally. 2021 has been warmer than 2020 to date for Ketchum.
- The National Interagency Coordination Center is forecasting significantly higher risk than normal for major fires in Blaine County from July through October.
- Wildland firefighting resources are already scarce despite it being early in the peak fire season.
- Fireworks cause an average of nearly 20,000 fires annually across the country.

Introduction and History

Within Idaho, “safe and sane” fireworks are permitted between June 23 and July 5 of each year. “Safe and Sane” fireworks include sparklers, fountains, ground spinners and other devices that may shoot sparks up to 20 feet. While dubbed “Safe and Sane”, these types of fireworks do cause fires and injuries. In fact, sparklers cause more injuries than any other type of firework.

Fire danger on the Sawtooth National Forest is now posted as “high”. Fire restrictions are going into effect on June 25. A full fire ban is anticipated soon. Vegetation is currently the driest ever recorded for the date, and equivalent to late July in a “typical” year.

Idaho Statute 39-2609 states “Use of fireworks in any area that constitutes a severe fire threat based on the vegetative conditions during the current fire season as determined by the county or authority having jurisdiction, provided that notice of such areas is given in advance”. Idaho Code 50-901 provides for the immediate effect, upon posting in five public places of the city, and enforcement of emergency ordinances in situations of impending danger requiring immediate enforcement.”

With the current vegetative conditions, Ketchum now faces a “severe fire threat”, and that threat poses a immediate risk to the residents and visitors to Ketchum.

Sustainability Impact

No impact.

Financial Impact

No impact.

Attachments

- Draft ordinance #

Acceptance

Neil Bradshaw, Mayor
City of Ketchum