



# ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Karen L. Wold  
Title: Senior Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: (805) 662-1750  
Email: Karen.Wold@Ventura.org

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### **District Attorney Issues Warning Concerning Illegal Fireworks**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko issued a public service announcement today regarding illegal fireworks as we celebrate the upcoming Fourth of July weekend. In Ventura County, all fireworks are illegal with the exception of those described as “Safe and Sane,” which are permitted only in the city of Fillmore. Please be aware that even if you purchase “Safe and Sane” fireworks in Fillmore, it is illegal to use or possess them anywhere in Ventura County outside of Fillmore.

Unfortunately, every year the use of illegal fireworks cause destructive fires nationwide. Ventura County is experiencing severe drought conditions, where a single spark from a firework could result in a massive fire in our community. District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said, “This year, the potential risk for fires is of even greater concern due to the severe drought and water rationing. Please leave Fourth of July fireworks to the professionals, and remember that possession of illegal fireworks is a crime punishable by jail and large fines.”

In addition to being a fire hazard, every year fireworks cause serious injuries to those who possess them, as well as innocent bystanders. Sudden loud noises from illegal fireworks negatively affect our most vulnerable neighbors, including small children, the elderly and our honorable veterans suffering from PTSD. Also, sudden loud noises from illegal fireworks can frighten neighborhood pets who run away and are reported missing.

There are legal consequences for violating laws pertaining to illegal fireworks. In addition to local ordinance violations, possession or use of fireworks can be a misdemeanor or felony under California Health and Safety Code sections 12500-12702 and Penal Code sections 18710-18750. Violators face up to one year in jail for misdemeanors, and up to three years for a felony conviction. Fines may also be imposed ranging from \$500 to \$10,000, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

Information for safe and professional fireworks displays available throughout our community is available at [4th of July Fireworks, Parades and Other Events Around Ventura County — Conejo Valley Guide | Conejo Valley Events](#)

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.