Utah Restricts Fireworks use on State, Federal, and all Unincorporated Private Lands

Statewide fire restrictions have been issued by fire managers from the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This means that all lands in the State of Utah, except incorporated towns and cities, are closed to fireworks. Simply put, if you live in the County, or unincorporated private lands, you cannot set off fireworks along with several other restrictions. Governor Herbert called on local communities to take a look at their fireworks ordinances.

"The entire state is tinder dry right now and resources can only stretch so far," added the Governor. "While we may not be able to prevent those fires caused by natural forces, we must do all possible to prevent human-caused fires, encouraging local jurisdictions to appropriately regulate use of fireworks and firearms if necessary. State agencies will continue to work proactively with local and federal partners in fighting current fires and preventing future flares, but in the meantime, let us also work together to protect life and property under these dry conditions." Governor Gary Herbert.

Utah State Forester, Dick Buehler, has asked that all unincorporated county lands, state forests, and BLM land be closed to fireworks use this summer season. Residents may not be aware of the fireworks restrictions that local city and county leaders have put in place. The hope is that everyone will use common sense when using fireworks this summer season. Fire danger is extremely high this year, due to the lack of winter snowfall and spring rain.

The above is a reprint of a press release issued by Utah Governor Gary Herbert. Please be aware that here in Lindon City, a Fireworks Restriction was put in place by the Mayor and City Council on April 3, 2012. Generally speaking, everything west of I-15 is closed to Fireworks and everything within about 2 blocks of the foothills is also closed. This closure extends until January 31, 2012. A complete map of the closure areas is on the Lindon City web site or a printed copy is available at the Lindon City Center or the Police Department. Bright yellow restriction signs have been placed all along the eastern closed area boundary. To date there have been over 400 fires in the state of Utah this year. While not all of these fires have been human-caused, many have been.

The loss of homes, cabins, property, wildlife habitat, injuries to Firefighters, and even the loss of a human life is immeasurable at this time. Also on the web site is a photo which I took in 1987 during what became known as the Squaw Hollow Fire. This fire started in the area of Citizenship Park at 800 East and about 520 North in Lindon, which is part of the fireworks closure area this year. If this same fire event were to happen tomorrow, it could result in the estimated loss of 50 to 200 homes in the areas of Lindon and Orem to the East and South.

This Fireworks Restriction is an important step in safeguarding our city. Police and Fire personnel will be active in the restricted areas throughout the summer and fall and the traditional dates of "legal" fireworks discharge, to prevent violations and may ticket or arrest violators. Please remember that state law also provides for civil recovery of the costs of damage and firefighting for illegally caused fires. Response to this closure from the public has been very positive, with many of our citizens calling for a city wide firework ban. The possibility of a greater restriction will be reevaluated dependent upon incidents and violations during the 4th of July period.

If we all use common sense and have concern for our neighbors, and an understanding of the fragile and even dangerous environment and conditions that we live in, together we may avoid an unimaginable tragedy this year similar to those occurring all around us.

Cody Cullimore, Chief of Police