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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2018

For more information,
please contact:
San Juan County Fire Department, 505- 334-1180

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San Juan County Fireworks Restrictions

San Juan County, NM – Due to the extreme drought conditions in San Juan County, the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners approved a restriction on the use of fireworks at their regular board meeting on May 1, 2018. These fireworks restrictions went into effect on **Friday, June 8th**.

San Juan County restrictions:

- Ban the sale and use of all missile-type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, stick-type rockets and ground audible devices within the affected drought area in the unincorporated portions of San Juan County.
- Ban the use of *all fireworks* within areas that are covered wholly or in part by timber, brush or native grass.
- Limit the use of cone fountains, crackling devices, cylindrical fountains, flitter sparklers, ground spinners, illuminating torches, toy smoking devices and wheels to areas that are paved or barren and that have a readily accessible source of water for use by the homeowner or the general public.
- Allow the use of some fireworks in *unincorporated areas of the county* that are *banned in the four municipalities* of San Juan County. These include: reloadable shell kits, mines, multiple tube devices, roman candles. Use of these devices should be restricted to areas that are paved or barren and have a readily accessible source of water on hand for immediate use by homeowner or the general public.

It is ultimately your responsibility to know your jurisdictions restrictions. Law enforcement and fire officials will have zero tolerance for fire starts or illegal fireworks this year due to the extreme drought conditions.

The sale and use of display fireworks is not prohibited, provided that any such display is issued a permit by the San Juan County Fire Department as required by San Juan County Ordinances.

These restrictions are effective for a period of thirty (30) days beginning June 8, 2018 unless modified, rescinded or extended by the Governing Body of San Juan County.

Local governmental agencies including counties and municipalities can act under New Mexico State Statues 60-2C-8.1 NMSA 1978 to restrict fireworks, but are unable to completely ban the use of all fireworks.

San Juan County encourages everyone to participate in the community events and forgo setting off individual fireworks. Displays are currently being planned by the City of Farmington, City of Bloomfield and Bolack Ranch.

- July 3, City of Farmington - Info: <https://farmingtonnm.org/events/freedom-days/>
- July 4, Bolack's annual display
- July 5, City of Bloomfield - Info: call Dorothy Nobis, 505-632-6300

Fire departments regionally have been helping to ensure that the community firework event sites have been prepared and proper fire mitigation done, and will be on hand to assist with community events.

San Juan County will open the large paved parking lot at McGee Park in Farmington during the week of June 30 - July 8 as a family friendly, and alcohol free venue to enjoy fireworks that are not restricted. Bring your picnics and BBQ and join in the fun of a community tail gate party.

A designated area will be set up in the paved lot along Highway 64 beginning on June 30th and extending to July 8th. The lot will be open until 10:30 p.m., with extended hours until 12:00 midnight on Saturday June 30, Tuesday July 3, Wednesday July 4, Friday July 6 and Saturday July 7. Security staff and Law Enforcement will be on hand to watch for illegal fireworks and help remind participants of safety measures.

In case of any injury or fire it is important to call 911 immediately. Due to the extreme drought conditions, fires can grow out of control with unexpected speed.

Watch for updates regarding the drought, *Burn Ban* and *Fireworks Restrictions* on the County's Facebook page and web site; www.sjcounty.net, and on the City of Farmington web site at www.fmtn.org/drought, and please be safe.

Please direct all inquiries to Susan Hakanson, San Juan County Public Relations Manager, at shakanson@sjcounty.net or 505-386-8325.