



# Auburn Police Department



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**FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

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## **CITY OF AUBURN: FIREWORKS PROHIBITED** A Reminder to Celebrate Safely

As we move into summer and the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday approaches, the Auburn Police Department would like to remind citizens and visitors that the discharge of fireworks is strictly prohibited by municipal ordinance.

“We hope that citizens will enjoy the city-sponsored celebration – the Liberty Festival - instead of setting off their own fireworks,” says Deputy Police Chief Jason Moen. “It’s a matter of safety. It may be legal to purchase fireworks in certain parts of Maine now, but Auburn banned their use, sale and possession with intent to sell.”

Those who disregard the rules are apt to encounter police intervention. “We will cite violators if they are found,” Moen said. Officers will enforce the city’s fireworks ordinance by responding to reports of illegal fireworks possession and discharge.

According to the ordinance, any person who uses consumer fireworks or possesses consumer fireworks with the intent to use in the City of Auburn shall be punished by a fine of up to \$400.00. Similarly, any person who sells (or possesses consumer fireworks with the intent to sell) shall be punished by a fine of at least \$500.00. Any fireworks in violation of this ordinance will be seized. (*Auburn Municipal Ordinance: Chapter 20, Article III Section 20.58.1*).

People can help the department with this stepped-up emphasis by calling 911 when fireworks are illegally or recklessly set off in their neighborhoods.

“Leave the fireworks to the trained professionals,” said Moen. “The Auburn Police Department wants everyone to have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Make sure that you celebrate in a safe, fun and legal way.”