News Release
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Officials remind public to stay safe this weekend

LĪHU‘E – County officials are reminding everyone to stay safe this holiday weekend as the nation celebrates the 4th of July.

The Kaua‘i Fire Department reminds the public that it is illegal to set off fireworks on public property, including streets, sidewalks, or parks. In addition, removing the powder or pyrotechnic contents from any firework is prohibited. The public is also advised that all aerial luminaries, also known as flying lanterns or flying luminaries, are prohibited in the State of Hawai‘i, per HRS 132-19. Fireworks and firecrackers may only be ignited on private property between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. on July 4.

Additionally, the KFD Fire Prevention Bureau advises everyone to exercise caution when igniting fireworks, follow listed instructions, and be sure that children are under adult supervision at all times.

“We are encouraging the public to be proactive when celebrating the 4th of July holiday weekend, have a safe zone for fireworks, and have enough water available via bucket or water hose to extinguish any fires or debris,” said KFD Fire Prevention Bureau Captain Jeremie Makepa. “As a reminder, Kaua‘i may experience drier conditions in July that are conducive to brush fires, so it is essential to celebrate responsibly to prevent fires.”

Kaua‘i police will be stepping up enforcement to help deter the use of illegal fireworks and firecrackers this weekend. Patrol officers will also be on the roads in an effort to curtail drinking and driving.
“We know how much fun it is for family and friends to gather during the holiday, but we want to remind everyone to please be responsible and not get behind the wheel if you’ve been drinking. We also would like to encourage people to please be courteous of your neighbors and keep them in mind while celebrating,” said Chief of Police Todd G. Raybuck. “It’s great to enjoy Independence Day with fireworks and firecrackers but it’s important to remember to do so legally, and to take into consideration the noise and smoke that can harm others, including our kūpuna, combat veterans and our beloved pets.”

People who wish to report illegal activity may do so by contacting Kaua‘i Police Department Dispatch at 241-1711.

The public is also reminded that Kaua‘i remains in Tier 4, with a limit on social gatherings of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors.

"As the Department of Health recently confirmed that the Delta variant is now present on Kaua‘i, it's important that we continue to practice COVID safety, especially as we gather with family and friends," said Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami. "Please continue to wear your masks, keep your distance from others and get vaccinated if you are able."

For more information on COVID rules and safety protocols, please visit www.kauai.gov/covid-19.

Photo courtesy KFD: This photo was taken after a house fire in Kekaha and helps illustrate how far away vegetation can burn due to radiant heat, particularly in dry conditions.

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