

LAKEWOOD

*News from the
City of Lakewood*

www.lakewoodcity.org
562-866-9771, ext. 2140

Vets, Pets & Regrets
Mosquito safety tips
Water Quality Report & Draft
Urban Water Management Plan

Briefs

Vets, Pets & Regrets

Please think twice before using illegal fireworks

Lakewood, like many communities, allows the use of “safe-and-sane” fireworks approved by the State Fire Marshal on the day of July 4th only. These are fireworks that do not explode or go into the air. Their sound does not travel far. And families can enjoy them responsibly as part of a fun... and safe... July 4th celebration. Their use also benefits Lakewood community groups that sell them at stands throughout the city between July 1-4.

However, some people make the fateful decision each year to purchase and use fireworks that are illegal in California for personal use. These include skyrockets and explosives... all of which are illegal in California and dangerous to use... especially in highly populated, residential neighborhoods like Lakewood.

If you're thinking of using illegal fireworks, did you know:

1. Some combat veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can be traumatized by illegal fireworks. The Marine Corps urges Americans to be considerate of the veterans living among us when it comes to illegal fireworks use. For example, a Marine veteran of two tours in Iraq said he can prepare for events like the annual fireworks display that his hometown puts on at a certain time. But the sudden rat-a-tat of firecrackers set off by his neighbors throughout the night transports him back to Baghdad and sets him on edge.

2. Pets can also be traumatized by loud fireworks...and more pets run away from home and are lost on July 4th than on any other day. Most pet owners can prepare their animals for a short, one-time event like a planned fireworks show or the use of safe-and-sane fireworks whose sound does not travel far. But there's no preparing for the loud and unexpected sounds of illegal skyrockets, firecrackers and other explosives, including those happening late at night.



What can you do to help?

- If you think someone is planning to use illegal fireworks, call the Illegal Fireworks Tipline at City Hall at 562-866-9771, ext. 7233, email Service1@lakewoodcity.org, or report it on the Lakewood Connect app (prior to July 4th). You can keep your tip confidential.
- To report illegal fireworks use IN PROGRESS, call the Lakewood Sheriff's Station at 562-623-3500.
- Lakewood's fines for illegal fireworks use can now total over \$2,000...and Lakewood funds extra Deputy Sheriff and

civilian support personnel on and around July 4th who are prepared to issue citations and seize illegal fireworks. Lakewood's Special Assignment Officers also carry out undercover operations before July 4th to target the buying and selling of illegal fireworks.

Lakewood residents can have a lot of fun with safe-and-sane fireworks...and you won't risk harming veterans, pets and other neighbors in the process.

Protect yourself and your neighborhood from mosquitoes

Mosquitoes can quickly breed in water left standing for just a few days. Serious illness and even death can result from mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile virus and the threat of the Zika virus.

Zika is transmitted by the small Aedes mosquito and has serious repercussions for pregnant women. Aedes mosquitoes can live indoors or outdoors. Eggs are laid along the waterline of any water-holding container such as flower vases, plant saucers, buckets, used tires, and even plants that hold water, like bamboo or bromeliads. Eggs can remain alive for years, and hatch into larvae when conditions are right.

Look for:

- small, black mosquitoes with white stripes
- mosquitoes active and biting during the day — even indoors!
- immature mosquitoes (larvae and pupae) swimming in stagnant water.
- Mosquitoes do not fly far. If you are getting bites, the water is likely in your yard. If you are unable to find and remove it yourself, contact the Greater L.A. County Vector Control District at



562-944-9656 or www.ReportMosquitoes.org for free help.

Remember the “3 Ds” of mosquito protection:

■ **DEET:** Use insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus to keep mosquitoes away. Prevent mosquitoes from invading

your home by ensuring window screens are intact.

■ **Dawn & Dusk:**

Dawn and dusk are the most active time for most mosquitoes. If you must be outdoors at those times, wear long-sleeve shirts and pants and insect repellent. NOTE: The Aedes

mosquito is active during the day.

■ **Drain:** Clear your yard of any standing water, including water pooling at the bottom of plant saucers. Check toys or other small items left standing in water and wash them thoroughly if kept. Mosquito eggs laid in cracks are hard to detect and can live for up to a year. Remove or drill holes in the bottom of all plant pots, saucers, barrels, bins and old tires.

Untreated swimming pools can be reported to Lakewood City Hall by calling 562-866-9771, extension 2140, or emailing service1@lakewoodcity.org.

Water Quality Report and Urban Water Management Plan

Lakewood’s 2020 Water Quality Report shows that the city’s drinking water continues to meet all federal and state quality standards. View it at www.lakewoodcity.org/2020waterqualityreport. For a copy of the report or if you have any questions, contact the Lakewood Dept. of Water Resources at 562-866-9771, extension 2700.

The public is also invited to provide feedback on

Lakewood’s Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. The plan describes Lakewood’s vision for water supply reliability and the city’s commitment to the sustainability of water services over the next 20 years. See the draft plan at www.lakewoodcity.org/2020UWMP or at the City Clerk’s office at City Hall, Dept. of Water Resources office at 5812 Arbor Rd, or at the two L.A. County libraries in Lakewood.