

COMMUNITY CORNER

Fireworks rules vary throughout region; know your town's laws

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

In last week's community corner, I explained briefly what is and is not allowed in the way of fireworks on Fort Riley. This week, I will explain the rules and regulations outside of Fort Riley.

The Central Flint Hills Region is made up of seven counties and 22 communities surrounding Fort Riley. Many of our Soldiers, Families and civilian employees live in these communities and may choose to use fireworks over the Fourth of July holiday.

This information is not all encompassing nor should it be taken as the letter of the law when it comes to fireworks ordinances where you live. Residents still have the responsibility to check with the local lawmakers and law enforcement to ensure they remain in compliance.

The state of Kansas prohibits igniting or discharging fireworks into, under, or from a car or vehicle, whether moving or standing still, or on a public roadway or the right-of-way adjoining a public roadway. Also, fireworks shall not be discharged within 100 feet of any "place of institution."

In the city of Abilene, fireworks are not allowed. In Dickinson County, a permit is required to use fireworks in unincorporated areas. The permit is free, but it must be obtained no later than July 2 at the County Clerk's Office. For



Col. Kevin Brown

more information, visit <http://www.dkcoks.org/>.

Clay Center allows fireworks between the hours of 8 a.m. and midnight on July 4.

In Junction City, fireworks are allowed within city limits July 4 and 5 from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

In Manhattan city limits, fireworks are allowed from July 1 to 4 between 8 a.m. and midnight.

Salina prohibits fireworks, except for fireworks displays by the city, fair associations, amusement parks and other organizations.

Topeka will allow fireworks June 27 to July 4 between the hours of 8 a.m. and midnight.

In Wamego, fireworks are allowed inside city limits July 3 and 4 from 8 a.m. until midnight.

I would like to remind everyone again that the safest choice is to sit back, relax and enjoy community fireworks shows that are put on by trained professionals.

Abilene will celebrate with fireworks at 9:45 p.m. in Eisenhower Park.

Clay Center has planned their fireworks display on July 3 around 9:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds following afternoon activities, including children's

activities and races.

The Council Grove City Lake Association is sponsoring an annual regatta (boat parade) and cabin/lakefront decorating contest at 6:30 p.m., followed by a fireworks display shortly after dark.

Junction City's Sundown Salute is the largest free Independence Day celebration in Kansas and has July 1 through 5 packed with activities including a fireworks extravaganza at 10 a.m. July 4 in Heritage Park on the corner of Sixth and Washington streets.

In Manhattan, spectators can enjoy "Thunder Over Manhattan" at CiCo Park located at Wreath and Kimball avenues beginning at dusk.

The city of Wamego has the largest volunteer hand-fired fireworks show in the Midwest beginning at dusk at the Wamego Recreation Complex located at Highway 24 and Balderson Avenue.

These are several of the many fireworks displays planned in the Central Flint Hills Region.

For more information about the Central Flint Hills Region and contacts in your community visit www.riley.army.mil and click on the Fort Riley and the Central Flint Hills Region graphic in the center of the home page.

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic to be covered in the Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

Fireworks can be beautiful, but dangerous if not used properly

By Paula Nardella
STAFF WRITER

Fireworks can be beautiful to watch with their big booms and sparkling lines of light creating fabulous displays to fire the imagination, but all that beauty can be dangerous.

Despite their beauty, fireworks are considered explosives and there are some safety tips people should keep in mind when using them.

Many places, including Fort Riley, do not allow private fireworks including sparklers and snapdragons, so when planning a celebration involving fireworks, people should check with either their local police or fire station to make sure they aren't breaking laws by using them.

A number of reasons were consid-

ered for banning fireworks on post, said Shawn Sullivan, fire inspector.

"Sparklers can run up to 1,200 degrees," said Sullivan, which is hot enough to burn through skin and clothes quickly, as well as ignite dry grasses, trees and homes.

For some celebrations, contractors may put on professional displays at Fort Riley with approval from the fire chief. When visiting a professional display, people should remember to stay behind the safety barriers and should not bring fireworks to set off on their own.

Sullivan said bearing a few things in mind can help keep everyone safe in areas where fireworks are allowed.

"If you're going to be intoxicated, don't use fireworks," Sullivan said.

Other tips include try to find a large open area outdoors free from structures

and foliage that may catch fire. Do not wear loose clothing, as loose clothing is more prone to catching fire from sparks.

Users also should read the directions and warnings on the packages before setting off their fireworks and never shoot them at a person, as serious burns could result.

A bucket of water or fire extinguisher should be kept nearby, not only in the event of a fire, but also in case a firework doesn't go off. Sullivan said people should never go over to see why their firework failed, but instead douse it with water or a fire extinguisher and dispose of it.

He also said children should be supervised when playing with any kind of firework, including sparklers, which are commonly thought to be harmless.

HOUSE FILL AD

Home wanted



Sophie

This is Sophie. Sophie is a 1-year-old spayed female cat. She is very loving and gets along well with all people and other animals.

Fort Riley Stray Facility
Building 226 Custer Ave.
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday
Phone: 239-6183

AT THE MOVIES

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Tickets cost \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

June 25 - Angels and Demons, PG-13

June 26 - Star Trek, PG-13

June 27 - X-Men Origins: Wolverine, PG-13

June 28 - Star Trek, PG-13, 5 p.m. showing

July 2 - X-Men Origins: Wolverine, PG-13

July 3 - Drag Me to Hell, PG-13

July 4 - Terminator Salvation: The Future Begins, PG-13

July 5 - Dance Flick, PG-13

July 9 - Terminator Salvation: The Future Begins, PG-13

For more information, call Barlow Theater at 239-9574.