

## Media Release

**Date:** June 29, 2021

**Contact:** IEFCA President Tom Jenkins

**Subject:** Inland Empire Fire Chiefs discourage the use of Fireworks this Fourth of July

Spokane County, WA—The Inland Empire Fire Chiefs Association (IEFCA) adopts the position that igniting fireworks this fourth of July season should be left to licensed professionals who have conducted an expert fire risk analysis based on location. The Fire Chiefs resoundingly feel that eliminating recreational fireworks this holiday is the only effective means of reducing the preventable social and economic impacts of fireworks-related trauma and damage during these conditions. The unprecedented drought, unseasonably dry fuels, and record-breaking heat will make fires difficult to control and extinguish.

The current fire potential and weather conditions threatens our citizens' health, well-being, and safety, while at the same time making conditions challenging for our emergency responders. IEFCA President Tom Jenkins stated, "With the diversity of jurisdictions and resources, this was a tough decision for us to reach as Fire Chiefs. However, in consideration of the elevated fire danger and our reliance on our collective resources, it is the only decision possible to ensure the safety of Spokane County during these fire-prone conditions."

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