



Lea County

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PUBLIC RELEASE

June 8, 2023

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LEA COUNTY FIREWORKS RESTRICTIONS TO CONTINUE THROUGH JULY 8

As promised, the Lea County Board of County Commissioners (LCBCC) revisited the Proclamation on Fireworks Restrictions they approved at a special meeting on June 8, 2023. At their regular meeting on June 29, Commissioners did not rescind the proclamation, meaning that it will expire on July 8 and all restrictions will remain in place until that date.

Lea County Emergency Manager and Fire Marshal Lorenzo Velasquez and Public Safety Administrator Charles Pruitt advised commissioners that drought conditions have not improved since the original proclamation was issued and that Lea County is still in a severe drought as defined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Velasquez also noted first responders have already made calls to fire incidents involving fireworks.

The ban applies to the sale and use of missile-type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, stick-type rockets and ground audible devices. The use of any fireworks not listed are limited to areas that are paved or barren or that have a readily accessible source of water for use by the homeowner or the general public. The use of all fireworks within wildlands is also banned.

"I'm against [banning fireworks]," said District 5 Commissioner Pat Sims. "but I'm even more against the irresponsible use of fireworks we're seeing in this area right now. This is one of the hardest decisions I've ever made."

Chair Dean Jackson supported the ban by illustrating unintended consequences of the careless use of fireworks resulting in the potential destruction of pastures and fields that can, in turn, destroy farmers' and ranchers' livelihoods for at least a year.

The proclamation applies only to the unincorporated (areas outside city/town limits) portions of Lea County and violations are subject to criminal and civil penalties.

The City of Lovington and the City of Hobbs have also adopted their own versions of the proclamation.

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