



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

FABIAN E. LIZARRAGA
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800
Fax: (707) 961-2806

PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Chief Fabian Lizarraga
Date: June 15, 2015
Event: 4th of July Celebration

The planning and festivities for the Annual Fourth of July are rapidly being finalized. As such, the Fort Bragg Police Department wants to inform the community about some key changes or additions to our presence on that day.

In recent years, there has been an increase of incidents involving public drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and the illegal discharge of fireworks at Noyo Beach during the Independence Day fireworks event. This year there will be an effort to address safety concerns and ensure compliance with existing laws prohibiting consumption of alcohol in public and the discharge of fireworks in public parks (as well as countywide). In order to reclaim and establish the beach area as a “family friendly” location for viewing the fireworks display, the Fort Bragg Police Department will establish “security checkpoints” at the entries to Noyo Beach.

All persons intending to go onto the Noyo Beach area will go through a checkpoint at the entry to the parking lot. Persons with fireworks and/or alcohol in their possession will be given the opportunity to discard the items, to return the items to their vehicles, or to be denied entry to Noyo Beach. Persons carrying backpacks and coolers or other containers will be asked to have them inspected for alcohol and fireworks. Refusal to have these items checked will only result in denial of access to the Noyo Beach area.

These measures are being instituted because the public consumption of alcohol and the illegal discharge of fireworks on Noyo Beach during the Independence Day fireworks display presents risks to the safety of the general public. The security checkpoint(s) at Noyo Beach are intended for the immediate purpose of preventing the public safety hazards posed by drunken behavior and the illegal discharge of fireworks. A publicity campaign as well as signage will be utilized to get the word out to the public regarding the security checkpoints at Noyo Beach and the strict enforcement of existing laws prohibiting public consumption of alcohol and the discharge of fireworks.

Please enjoy the Independence Day Holiday safely and responsibly.

-- END --