



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Sergeant Thomas N. O'Neal
Date/Time of Event: July 6, 2019
Location of Event: City of Fort Bragg
Event: Fireworks Display

CIRCUMSTANCES:

The City of Fort Bragg and the Fort Bragg Police Department have entered the planning stages of the 2019 4th for July Fireworks Display scheduled for Saturday, July 6, 2019. Over the last several years, this event has dramatically increased in size with attendees viewing the Fireworks Display and enjoying time with friends and family at various locations surrounding Noyo Beach. The increase in attendance has lead the Department to adjust their approach to policing this event.

For this year's celebration, Police Officers will be deployed directly on Noyo Beach and in the surrounding areas in order to enforce Local, County and State laws; specifically those laws related to fireworks, alcohol, and open fires. Individuals observed violating any of these laws will be cited/arrested, and ejected from the event. The Police Department would like to remind the public that open consumption of alcohol in public is a violation of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code. Additionally, the common viewing areas for the Fireworks display including Pomo Bluffs Park, Noyo Beach, and the South Coastal Trail (Noyo Headlands Trail), are considered City parks and are subject to additional local statutes.

In past years, parking in the areas surrounding the event has caused issues for property owners, law enforcement, and emergency personnel. As in year's past, the Pomo Bluffs parking lot will remain open for vehicles displaying disabled parking placards. Recreation vehicles (RVs), oversized vehicles, and vehicles with trailers will be prohibited, regardless of whether they possess disabled placards or plates. Signage will be posted prior to the event, and vehicles found without placards/plates at the start of the event will receive parking citations with a fine of \$285 for violation of 22507.8 CVC.

Public parking along Ocean View Drive and the various north/south roadways off Ocean View Drive will be prohibited. These roadways were not designed for public parking, and need to remain open for law enforcement and emergency personnel response. Residents/guests who live along these roadways should ensure that any visitors are legally parked entirely within private property. Signage notifying the public of no parking/tow away will be posted on each of these roadways prior to the event. Any vehicles found illegally parked in these areas will be subject to parking citations and being towed.

Paid parking lots will be offered at Noyo Beach (\$20), the South Coastal Trail (\$20), and the "Patton-Carlson Property" (\$10) located at 1250 Del Mar Drive east of Mendocino College. Parking fees from Noyo Beach and the South Coastal Trail will be directly applied to offsetting the costs of the Fireworks Display. The paid parking lot on the Patton-Carlson Property will be operated by the local American Legion Chapter with those funds being used to benefit local veterans. All visitors to the event are encouraged to carpool, walk, bike or utilize public transportation to minimize traffic surrounding the event.

At the conclusion of the event, the 100 Blocks of N. Harbor Drive and South Street will be barricaded off and shut down to all traffic. The surrounding hotels will have limited vehicle access to their parking lots for approximately 45 minutes. These two road closures are intended to reduce congestion and encourage motorists from the Noyo Harbor area to enter S. Main Street at the traffic light controlled intersections of Cypress Street and Chestnut Street.

Following the event, the Fort Bragg Police Department will be partnering with the California Highway Patrol to conduct traffic enforcement and Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement. The goal is to ensure a safe drive home for all motorists leaving the event.

Subsequent press releases containing more details related to the Fireworks Display will be released in the coming weeks. Concerns or questions regarding this year's event may be forwarded to Sergeant O'Neal at (707) 961-2800 ext. 120 or to toneal@fortbragg.com.

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