



NEWS



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After deadly explosion, San Bernardino Co. Fire Dept. creates new way to report illegal fireworks

Alexi Chidbachian, Fox 11 Los Angeles

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, Calif. - After a deadly firework explosion claimed two lives in Ontario earlier this year, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department created a new way for residents to report illegal firework use.

In mid-March an illegal firework explosion rocked a neighborhood in Ontario, resulting in the death of two people and cost over \$3 million worth of damage.

Over 80 homes were evacuated. Residents have reported illegal firework use for some time but say nothing was done about it by law enforcement.

Now a month after that explosion the fire department has created the Illegal Firework Reporting System which allows the public to report the use and sale of illegal fireworks.

The county fire department says once a complaint is filed, local law enforcement will be notified for follow-up and investigation. All reports will then go into a database that will help fire and law enforcement agencies in targeting the problem. The fire department says they will then focus their patrol and resources to those specific areas.

"The use of illegal fireworks puts the public, our firefighters and police officers at risk creating an unnecessary burden and additional cost to our communities," said San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Mike Horton. "This new county-wide reporting system is another tool that will assist us in getting illegal fireworks off our streets."

Over the past four years, San Bernardino County Fire Department has confiscated over 121,600 pounds of 'dangerous and illegal fireworks' and issued more than 700 citations.

"We take a no tolerance stand against this type of criminal act and pledge to continue our efforts in this battle," said San Bernardino County Assistant Sheriff Horace Boatwright.

The fire department will set up several Firework Surrender Days for residents to surrender any illegal or safe & sane fireworks, no questions asked.

The new reporting system can be found on the county's website at sbcfire.org.

<https://www.foxla.com/news/after-deadly-explosion-san-bernardino-co-fire-dept-creates-new-way-to-report-illegal-fireworks>

San Bernardino Co. Launches New Illegal Fireworks Reporting System in Wake Of Ontario Explosion

Staff Writer, CBS 2 Los Angeles

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A home is destroyed after a massive firework explosion in Ontario, Calif., on March 16, 2021. (Watchara Phomicinda/The Press-Enterprise/Getty Images)

FONTANA (CBSLA) – Following last month’s massive fireworks explosion in an Ontario neighborhood which left two men dead and caused millions of dollars in damage, San Bernardino County Thursday was unveiling a new illegal firework reporting system.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District and other local law enforcement agencies were holding a news conference Thursday morning to launch a new system which allows the public to report illegal fireworks. **Illegal Firework Reporting System.**

On the afternoon of March 16, multiple explosions occurred at a property at San Antonio Avenue and Maple Street, sending terrified neighbors scrambling for safety. The initial explosion had the magnitude of a bomb blast, followed by a series of ensuing explosions.

Two cousins were killed on the property and three other people were hurt. The blasts sent debris covering 80 properties and caused an estimated \$3.2 million in damage.

The surrounding neighborhood was under evacuation for several days after the blast while bomb technicians combed through the debris field, collected dozens of unexploded ordnances. The fireworks were too volatile to remove, so the bomb squads filled dumpsters with fireworks and set them off at the property where the initial explosion occurred.

Investigators were looking into the possibility that the home whether the explosion occurred was a so-called “trap house,” a place where illegal fireworks are sold. Investigators are unsure about whether the fireworks were being made at or sold from the home, only that there was a very large supply.

Neighbors told CBSLA that they area is rife with illegal fireworks. CBSLA filed a public records request and found that Ontario police had responded to 50 illegal fireworks calls within a one block radius of the home in the past year, about one call per week.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/04/08/san-bernardino-co-launches-new-illegal-fireworks-reporting-system-in-wake-of-ontario-explosion/>