



CITY OF REDMOND

CITY HALL
411 SW 9th STREET
REDMOND, OR 97756
541.923.7710
FAX: 541.548.0706
info@redmondoregon.gov
redmondoregon.gov

CITY COUNCIL

July 1, 2025
Council Chambers • 411 SW 9th Street

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ed Fitch
Mayor

Shannon Wedding
Council President

Clifford Evelyn
Councilor

John Nielsen
Councilor

Kathryn Osborne
Councilor

Jay Patrick
Councilor

Cat Zwicker
Councilor

JULY 1, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

4:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

II. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

A. Discussion Regarding Fireworks

III. ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance #2025-13 - An ordinance declaring a state of emergency due to extreme weather conditions.

IV. ADJOURN

Regular Council meetings are broadcast live on COTV11 – BendBroadband Channel 11 beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Rebroadcasts are scheduled for the non-meeting Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

The City of Redmond encourages all citizens to participate in its programs and activities. This meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for accommodation may include sign language interpreter service, assistive listening devices, materials in an alternate format or any other accommodation. If any accommodations are needed, please contact the ADA Coordinator at 541-504-3036 or access@redmondoregon.gov. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled meeting.

The City of Redmond does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in, its programs or activities

Kayla Duddy

From: Ed Fitch
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Kelly Morse; Kayla Duddy
Subject: Fw: Fireworks use in Redmond

Put these in the packet



Mayor Ed Fitch | *City of Redmond*

phone 541.504.3039
email ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov

411 SW 9th Street Redmond, Oregon 97756



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DISCLOSURE NOTICE:

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From: David Olewiler [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Ed Fitch <Ed.Fitch@redmondoregon.gov>; Clifford Evelyn <Clifford.Evelyn@redmondoregon.gov>; Shannon Wedding <Shannon.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov>; Cat Zwicker <cat.zwicker@redmondoregon.gov>; John Nielsen <john.nielsen@redmondoregon.gov>; Kathryn Osborne <kathryn.osborne@redmondoregon.gov>; Jay Patrick <jay.patrick@redmondoregon.gov>
Subject: Fireworks use in Redmond

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Mr. Mayor and city council members,

I urge you and the city council to conduct a meeting before July 4 to enact (an emergency act) a city-wide ban on fireworks sales and use, as well as creating public service announcements relating to the ban and enforcement of fireworks use violations.

Very few (if any) individuals have the funding to pay for homes and property destroyed by a wildfire caused by use of fireworks, let alone the cost of our emergency services utilized in suppressing wildfire that we taxpayers end up paying.

Given the recent wildfires in and close to Redmond, along with the arid central oregon climate, the risk of catastrophic property and infrastructure loss due to wildfire is far too great to justify fireworks vendor's claims of significant monetary investment in their business.

Also, make sure the non-emergency police phone line is properly staffed and police respond quickly to reports of illegal fireworks use. It's time to enforce illegal fireworks laws and fine offenders. That's the only way to modify individual behavior in some people.

We all can safely celebrate our nation's independence without the risk of fireworks sparking a devastating wildfire. Hotdogs, burgers, and ice cream (yes). Fireworks (no)

Respectfully,
David Olewiler
[REDACTED]
Redmond, OR
[REDACTED]

Kayla Duddy

From: Ed Fitch
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Kelly Morse; Kayla Duddy
Subject: Fw: Fireworks



Mayor Ed Fitch | *City of Redmond*

phone 541.504.3039
email ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Ed Fitch <Ed.Fitch@redmondoregon.gov>
Subject: Fireworks

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June 26, 2025

Ed Fitch
Mayor

City of Redmond

Subject: Request to Ban Consumer Fireworks in the City of Redmond

Dear Mr. Fitch,

As a concerned constituent and resident of Redmond, this letter expresses strong support for implementing a ban on consumer fireworks.

While fireworks may be a traditional way to celebrate certain holidays, the negative consequences may outweigh the perceived benefits. Consumer fireworks pose serious safety risks to those setting them off and to bystanders and children. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, thousands of people are treated in emergency departments annually for firework-related injuries, with hands, head/neck, and eyes being the most frequently injured body parts.

Fireworks also pose a significant fire hazard, causing thousands of fires each year, especially on holidays like the Fourth of July and New Years Eve. This puts homes and property at risk and strains the resources of local fire departments.

The loud and unpredictable nature of fireworks can be alarming to individuals with PTSD, the elderly, those in hospice care, and domestic animals and wildlife. The debris left behind after fireworks displays can also be harmful to pets and small children.

Many other communities across the country have successfully implemented restrictions or outright bans on consumer fireworks. It is urged to consider similar legislation for the City of Redmond to protect the safety and well-being of residents and animals.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Any thoughts and plans the community has to address these concerns are welcome.

Sincerely,

Randy and Deb Furman

[REDACTED]

Redmond, OR 97756

Kayla Duddy

From: Ed Fitch
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 3:31 PM
To: Kayla Duddy
Subject: Fw: Fireworks



Mayor Ed Fitch | *City of Redmond*

phone 541.504.3039
email ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov

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From: Diane Hower [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 2:49 PM
To: Ed Fitch <Ed.Fitch@redmondoregon.gov>
Subject: Fireworks

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Hello

Diane and Peter Hower of the Dry Canyon community are requesting that fireworks be banned in Redmond for 2025.

We also feel strongly that they are an additional nuisance for dogs and people with anxiety disorders.

We should not have to sedate our pets or be sleep deprived for other's pleasure.

The fireworks at the fairgrounds is a great option.

The non ER police and hotlines in our growing community ate a joke.

Thank you!

D & P

We are out of state visiting family and will be out of the country. We should not have to worry about our property while traveling

Kayla Duddy

From: Ed Fitch
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Kayla Duddy
Subject: Fw: 4th of July fireworks



Mayor Ed Fitch | *City of Redmond*

phone 541.504.3039
email ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov

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From: Jtob Kra [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 2:58 PM
To: Ed Fitch <Ed.Fitch@redmondoregon.gov>
Subject: 4th of July fireworks

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Please be proactive and ban fireworks before a large, uncontrollable fire gets started and destroys private and public property. Bend has done it. Portland has done it. Obviously their city councils recognize the danger and have taken action. To appease the citizens who might feel their "rights" are being taken away, allow them to use up what they have purchased on New Years Eve and then ban fireworks permanently. [REDACTED]

Kayla Duddy

From: Ed Fitch
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 2:40 PM
To: Kayla Duddy
Subject: Fw: opposition to fireworks



Mayor Ed Fitch | *City of Redmond*

phone 541.504.3039
email ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Ed Fitch <Ed.Fitch@redmondoregon.gov>; clifford.eveln@redmondorego.gov <clifford.eveln@redmondorego.gov>; Shannon Wedding <Shannon.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov>; Cat Zwicker <cat.zwicker@redmondoregon.gov>; john.nielsen@redmondoregon.gov <john.nielsen@redmondoregon.gov>; kathryn.osbone@redmondoregon.gov <kathryn.osbone@redmondoregon.gov>; Jay Patrick <jay.patrick@redmondoregon.gov>; Keith Witcosky <Keith.Witcosky@redmondoregon.gov>
Subject: opposition to fireworks

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We understand you are discussing fireworks this week. We are very anxious for the city to ban their sale and use here.

Below is an article I submitted to the Redmond Spokesman for publication this week.

Carl and Ginger Vertrees, [REDACTED] Redmond.

Are most fireworks made in China? Are there higher tariffs on them this year? Do fireworks cost more this year? I guess I'll never know.

Just call me scrooge, or the old curmudgeon, but I'm firmly against fireworks on the Fourth of July -- or any time of the year. I applaud the City of Bend for banning sales and the use of fireworks in that city, and I think Redmond should do the same.

My primary justification is the fire danger they create. We've already had the Euston Fire northwest of the city that burned about 30 acres, the fire west of Crooked River Ranch that consumed 3500 acres, and last week a three-acre blaze that scorched three acres in the Dry Canyon just south of the Maple Street Bridge.

Fortunately, no homes were lost, but last year a Redmond residence burned.

We live in the middle of a desert with annual precipitation of about eight inches. Of course things are dry and flammable as we experience hotter summers. Why risk damaging our homes and yards to show how patriotic we might be?

And what about people's pets? The explosive sounds of many fireworks certainly impact cats and dogs. We've all seen dogs cower seeking a quiet refuge. It's not unusual for pets to flee the noises, some pets never recovered by their owners.

Defenders of the sale and use of fireworks argue that non-profit organizations sell them to support their programs. No, I don't propose that a ban be implemented this year; that would have too much impact on the vendors. Immediate action by the Redmond City Council for a permanent ban beginning in 2026 would certainly give those independent businesses and organizations ample time to find another source of revenue.

As a youth in Seattle I remember enjoying fire crackers and sparklers and watching professional displays over Elliott Bay. In our six years in Alaska, fireworks were never big on the Fourth of July because it stayed light so long just after the summer solstice.

When we thought our daughters were old enough to enjoy fireworks, we bought sparklers for them, but regretted the decision when they burned their fingers.

We appreciate that some businesses and individuals are willing to sponsor professional displays at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond and atop Pilot Butte in Bend. Local fire departments are on hand to quell any unforeseen blazes.

However, we can prevent fires and protect our properties if the city council will implement a permanent ban.

Carl Vertrees lives in Redmond. He retired as publisher of The Spokesman in 2001.

Kayla Duddy

From: Kelly Morse
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Kayla Duddy
Subject: FW: Citizens setting off personal fireworks

For the packet.

From: Ed Fitch <Ed.Fitch@redmondoregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2025 1:03 PM
To: Kelly Morse <Kelly.Morse@redmondoregon.gov>
Subject: Fw: Citizens setting off personal fireworks



Mayor Ed Fitch | *City of Redmond*

phone 541.504.3039

email ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov

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From: barbara lutz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Ed Fitch <Ed.Fitch@redmondoregon.gov>; Clifford Evelyn <Clifford.Evelyn@redmondoregon.gov>; Shannon Wedding <Shannon.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov>; Cat Zwicker <cat.zwicker@redmondoregon.gov>; John Nielsen

<john.nielsen@redmondoregon.gov>; Kathryn Osborne <kathryn.osborne@redmondoregon.gov>; Jay Patrick
<jay.patrick@redmondoregon.gov>

Subject: Citizens setting off personal fireworks

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I urge the Council to ban all fireworks (other than 'snakes' and sparklers) in the city of Redmond by private citizens. The fire risk to public and private locations is a major concern, even if this has never happened before, the risk is still high and not worth the risk. There are also concerns of PTSD in humans and pets. As citizens of Redmond, we need to recognize there are really no good reasons to allow it. Groups using the sale as a fundraiser, can get a different fund raiser.

Our police force can be put to better use than tracking down those who set off illegal fireworks
We can encourage families and friends to go to the official/community sponsored fireworks -- and the city could offer free parking.

Please stand up to individuals trying to justify their desire to set off their own fireworks and so No.

--

Best to you,
Barb Lutz

Kayla Duddy

From: Darren Squier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 7:58 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fireworks

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I am furious I have to do this again, 4 days before Independence Day, on the 250th anniversary of the Liberty created by the founders of this great nation, some Mordant Communist thinks this is a neccesary idea within the city limits.

There are already enough laws governing this issue. Besides, it's a little late now after selling the fireworks in the city limits and other "illegals" having already been bought and hauled in, WTH is wrong with you people?

An ordinance or law needs to be voted on by "the people", ya think??

The Police arn't gonna be doing much about it anyway. Encouraging your neighbors to "snitch" is another communistic COVID tactic don't ya think? and that game did'n't work so hot.

Unbelievable. Gonna ban the parade too?

Kayla Duddy

From: Catherine Emert [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 8:46 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Ban on Fireworks - Public Comment

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To the Honorable Redmond City Council,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned resident ahead of your upcoming special meeting regarding the potential ban on fireworks within Redmond city limits. I urge you to take bold, decisive action and vote in favor of a full ban on consumer fireworks in our community.

Every year, we witness the growing dangers associated with fireworks—dangers that extend far beyond a momentary celebration. The primary and most pressing concern is fire risk. Central Oregon is no stranger to wildfires, and Redmond, in particular, faces increasing exposure due to prolonged drought conditions, high winds, and expanding residential development near wildland areas.

Just last week, the Dry Canyon burned, a stark reminder that we are entering fire season earlier and with more volatility than ever before. Last year, a fire off Obsidian Avenue—less than a quarter mile from my own home—was determined to be intentionally set using mortar-style fireworks. That was not an isolated incident. In 2023 alone, the Oregon Department of Forestry responded to 1,254 human-caused wildfires, many of which were due to careless or illegal firework use. With climate forecasts predicting hotter and drier summers, the risk only escalates.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

- Fireworks cause over 19,500 fires annually in the U.S., including structure fires, vehicle fires, and wildland fires.
- These fires result in over \$100 million in direct property damage every year.
- In 2022, over 11,500 people were treated in emergency rooms for firework-related injuries. More than a third of those were children under the age of 15.

Here in Central Oregon, where homes are often surrounded by dry vegetation and firefighting resources are already stretched thin, the cost of a single mistake can be catastrophic—not just emotionally or physically, but financially. Homeowners' insurance premiums are skyrocketing, and many residents are being dropped by their insurers altogether because of the wildfire risk.

This directly impacts our community's efforts to provide and preserve affordable housing. We cannot claim to be working toward affordability when we are simultaneously allowing behaviors that push insurance costs out of reach or make coverage unavailable altogether. If people can't insure their homes, they can't keep them—and that hurts all local residents, not just those most vulnerable. Allowing fireworks to continue undermines the very goals our city is fighting for when it comes to housing equity and stability.

Beyond the fire hazard, fireworks create a public health and safety crisis. Residents with PTSD—particularly veterans—experience heightened symptoms during fireworks season. Our community is also home to hundreds of domestic animals, many of whom become frantic or injured from the repeated loud blasts. And let’s not forget our youngest residents: children wake up terrified or are at risk of accidental injury, especially when neighbors light off illegal fireworks late into the night for weeks—not just one day—ahead of and following July 4th.

Adding to the frustration is the lack of effective enforcement. The current system—which requires residents to submit photos, names, addresses, and detailed documentation to an email address—is not realistic or equitable. Law enforcement, already burdened with more critical public safety issues, cannot possibly respond to every illegal fireworks report. The result is that bad actors continue unchecked, while responsible residents live in fear, frustration, or even grief.

In addition, it’s important to acknowledge the high level of alcohol consumption that typically accompanies July 4th celebrations. The combination of alcohol and explosives is a dangerous one, and it significantly increases the likelihood of accidents and reckless behavior. Fireworks are often lit by individuals under the influence, resulting in improper handling, unpredictable fires, and severe injuries. This risk is compounded when alcohol-fueled celebrations occur in residential neighborhoods where homes, dry vegetation, and families are close by. In these situations, even a moment of carelessness can have devastating consequences.

We are not advocating for the end of community celebration—we are asking for a safer, more responsible way to celebrate. Organized, professionally managed fireworks displays (such as those at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds) can continue to offer patriotic festivities without putting every neighborhood at risk.

Redmond has a chance to lead by example. Cities such as Bend, Portland, and even Sisters have implemented bans on personal fireworks, recognizing the clear and present danger they pose. It’s time we do the same.

In conclusion, I implore you to consider the facts:

- Wildfires are increasing in frequency and intensity.
- Fireworks cause tens of thousands of fires and injuries annually.
- Our insurance premiums and policies are at risk.
- Affordable housing is compromised when fire risk makes homes uninsurable.
- PTSD sufferers, children, and animals are negatively impacted.
- Alcohol-related carelessness further amplifies the danger.
- Enforcement as it stands is insufficient and ineffective.
- There are safer alternatives to celebrate.

I urge the council to vote in favor of a complete ban on fireworks in the City of Redmond—for the safety, health, and future of our community.

Sincerely,

--

Catherine Emert *Principal Broker- Strategic Realty, LLC*



Kayla Duddy

From: Kayla Boyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fireworks no

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No fireworks is absolutely the way to go. The chance of fires is too high to risk it. There will still be idiots who set them off in the city, but we have to try and discourage it. Plus the drain on our fire department, emergency services and hospitals just for fun is irresponsible. It seems really stupid to me. Those who want to enjoy setting off small bombs should go somewhere where it's "safe". We cannot allow a dangerous activity in the city where housing is precious. Having fun should not risk other people's lives. Thank you Redmond City Council.
Kayla Boyd

**CITY OF REDMOND
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-13**

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, ORS 401.305 provides authority for the City of Redmond to act as an emergency management agency, including authority to establish policies and protocols for defining and directing responsibilities during time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 and Redmond City Code Sections 5.505 to 5.535 the “City of Redmond Emergency Code,” authorize the City Council to declare a state of emergency within the city or within a designated portion of the city and to impose special regulations to prepare for and carry out activities which are necessary to prevent, minimize, respond to, or recover from an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the following condition has resulted in the need for a local state of emergency: a combination of extreme sustained heat, an existing long-term drought, and recent significant wildfires near and inside of the city limits; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the drafting of this declaration on June 30, 2025, the high temperature at the Redmond Airport is 94 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the National Weather Service; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2025, a wildfire (Euston Fire) ignited on the north side of the City, forcing the closure of the Airport Way for two days due to a following water main break, multiple other road closures, and a Level 3 evacuation for parts north of the City; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2025, a wildfire (Incident 291) ignited north of the City, consuming over 3000 acres and forcing a Level 3 evacuation for parts north of the City (Crooked River Ranch); and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2025, a wildfire (Dry Canyon) ignited in the Dry Canyon between the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Dog Park, consuming up to 4 acres, and requiring fire Department intervention; and

WHEREAS, the following disruption of important services, damage to life, or damage to property can be expected in association with these extreme weather conditions: (a) three fires have already ignited, resulting in over a hundred thousand dollars in excess City expenditures; (b) City resources will continue to be needed to respond to this threat in order to maintain public safety; (c) Resources related to continuity of operations, public services, public information, and funding may be expected to be expended in excess of normal levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF REDMOND ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: Pursuant to ORS 401.309 and Redmond City Code Section 5.525, the City Council formally declares a state of emergency for the City of Redmond, effective on this 1st day of July 2025, and continuing for the rest of the calendar year, during any

time a “burn ban” is in effect from Redmond Fire & Rescue District, unless extended or terminated earlier by the City Council.

SECTION TWO: Upon this declaration of a state of emergency, City Council shall be authorized to take and/or direct such actions and issue such orders as are determined to be necessary to protect the public and property and to efficiently conduct activities that minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency as authorized by ORS and the City of Redmond Emergency Code.

SECTION THREE: The City Manager shall take all necessary steps as authorized by law to coordinate response and recovery from this emergency including, but not limited to, coordinating with Redmond Fire, Deschutes County and regional partners, the State of Oregon and the federal government in order to qualify the City of Redmond for all available state and federal emergency assistance, not limited to use of shared resources, assistance from state and federal agencies, and financial assistance and reimbursements.

SECTION FOUR: Emergency procurements of goods and services are authorized pursuant to ORS 279B.080, ORS 279C.335(6), ORS 279.380(4), and City contracting rules.

SECTION FIVE: The following emergency powers shall be authorized for the duration of the emergency pursuant to Redmond Emergency Code 5.530: Redirecting City funds for emergency use and suspending standard City procurement procedures; ordering such other measures as are necessary for the protection of life or property, or for the recovery from the emergency.

SECTION SIX: Beginning on July 5, 2025, at 12:01am, use of any and all fireworks as defined by ORS 480.111 within the city during this emergency is strictly prohibited. Violation of this order will be subject to a Class A civil and/or administrative infraction and any other civil and/or criminal penalties, sanctions, and liability allowed by law. For purposes of this section, "use" includes lighting, exploding, or igniting in any way. Organized fireworks displays approved by Redmond Fire & Rescue District and the Oregon State Fire Marshal are exempt from this restriction. Use of fireworks that are illegal under state law continue to be prohibited at all times in accordance with ORS and Redmond City Code.

SECTION SEVEN: With regard to City employees, the City Manager may authorize modification(s) to relevant personnel leave and workplace requirements/designations as deemed necessary by the City Manager to address impacts associated with this emergency.

SECTION EIGHT: SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. The invalidity of any section, clause, sentence, or provision of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part of this Ordinance which can be given without such invalid part or parts.

SECTION NINE: This Ordinance is effective upon signing.

PASSED by the City Council and **APPROVED** by the Mayor this 1st day of July 2025.

Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelly Morse, City Recorder