



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: July 16, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

FROM: Corey Solferino, Chief of Police
David Cochran, Fire Chief
Cody Shadle, Director of Public Safety Dispatch
Noemi Gomez, Community Relationship Manager
Rebecca Venis, Director of Communications

DEPT: Reno Police Department
Reno Fire Department
Public Safety Dispatch
Community Engagement & Services
Communications

SUBJECT: Illegal Fireworks Enforcement, Education, and Outreach Summary

Overview

This memorandum provides an overview of the City of Reno's coordinated efforts to address illegal fireworks activity during the July 4th holiday period (July 1 – 4, 2026). Staff summarizes public safety calls for service, dispatch trends, enforcement activity, Reno Direct reporting, and public outreach.

Public Education, Outreach, & Enforcement Efforts

Prior to the holiday, Reno Police Department (RPD) and Reno Fire Department (RFD) collaborated closely to discourage fireworks use through targeted outreach and public messaging. Activities included:

- Public Safety Briefing including the dangers and consequences of illegal fireworks
- Joint press release from RPD and RFD reminding the community that fireworks are illegal and the dangers associated with illegal fireworks
- Two social media posts on the City's social media platforms discouraging the use of illegal fireworks
- Information in the Reno Report e-newsletter explaining the dangers of illegal fireworks

- Proactive outreach to households with prior fireworks complaints
- Implemented non-emergency noise disturbance/Fireworks triage line

Calls for Service & Dispatch Activity

During the reporting period, Reno Fire, Police, Reno Direct and Public Safety Dispatch experienced increases in fireworks-related contacts. Key metrics include:

- Reno Police Department (RPD):
 - Total number of illegal fireworks related calls for service: 43
 - Patrol response statistics: 15 responses, 11 cleared as “Gone On Arrival/Unable to Locate”, 2 additional as an RFD assist. 28 calls were reviewed and canceled by a Supervisor. We also received 8 additional audio detection alerts in the downtown core, but no responses were needed.
 - Enforcement actions: 2 calls were cleared with citations.
- Reno Fire Department (RFD):
 - Fire response incidents suspected or confirmed to be fireworks-related: 12
 - Total July 4, 2026 RFD calls for service: 142 (increase of about 30 from a typical day)
- Reno Dispatch:
 - Total 911 and non-emergency calls triaged for fireworks or noise disturbance: 271
 - Peak call times: July 4, 2026 - 9:00pm – 11:00pm (586 total calls received)
- Reno Direct:
 - Total illegal fireworks related requests submitted via the app/phone/email: 5
 - 4 requests for additional patrols in neighborhoods where residents reported recurring fireworks activity on July 4th, especially concerns about fire danger, excessive noise, and risks of property damage;
 - 1 request regarding frustration with the non-emergency phone system and AI call handling process while attempting to report illegal fireworks during high winds

Summary & Next Steps

The combined efforts of RPD, RFD, Reno Dispatch, Reno Direct, and the Communications team contributed to improved community awareness and coordinated response to illegal fireworks activity. Staff will identify opportunities to enhance public outreach and education prior to future Fourth of July celebrations.