

MEDIA ALERT



Contact: Lisa Derderian
(626) 744-7276 (office)
(626) 945-5169 (cell)

July 7, 2008
FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASADENA FIRE REPORTS LOWER NUMBER OF FIREWORKS RELATED ACTIVITY

(Pasadena, Calif.) Pasadena Fire Chief Dennis Downs is attributing a lower number of fireworks related incidents to a greater awareness of heightened fire danger and Pasadena's zero tolerance enforcement efforts.

Approximately 250 pounds of illegal fireworks were seized during an eight hour period as compared to over 1,000 pounds last year. For the first time, checkpoints were set-up in Pasadena, including the entrances to the Rose Bowl area which deterred many from entering once they were made aware of the possible vehicle search. Additional police/fire patrol units were assigned to confiscate and/or cite those in possession of fireworks.

“We have over 1,000 active brush fires burning throughout the state and there are still those who continue to think playing with fireworks is okay when all it takes is a little spark to start major conflagration. The conditions are tinder dry and our drought continues to get worse and worse, why play with fate?” states Downs.

Last year, two felony arrests were made for possession of explosives resulting in jail time, attorney costs and a conviction on their record.

On July 1st, the Pasadena and Sierra Madre Fire Departments coated the brush areas surrounding the Rose Bowl area with Phos-Chek. This is a preventive measure to mitigate potential fire hazards during the 4th of July weekend to help keep trees and grassland from burning.

###