



Chatham County Board of Commissioners

124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 2, 2020

Fireworks safety, keep 911 open for emergencies

Chatham County, GA (July 2, 2020) – Fourth of July fireworks are part of Independence Day celebrations and the noise complaints and safety issues they can generate lead to high call volumes at 911 call centers across the country. Georgia law states that on any day from 10 AM – 9 PM, fireworks are allowed. On July 3rd and 4th fireworks may be used from 10 AM – 11:59 PM.

During the Fourth of July holiday in 2019, more than 800 calls for service were received in the 911 Center within a 9 hour period, which was double the normal call volume. Many of these calls were in reference to fireworks, according to Diane Pinckney, Director of Chatham 911 Communications Services

“We ask the visitors and citizens in Chatham County to reserve 911 calls for true emergencies,” said Pinckney. “Last year, we received over 800 phone calls from 6pm until 3am on July 4th, which was an increase of 68% from what we would see on a normal day. This increase can easily tax our resources and we want to ensure our callers receive a prompt response when calling for a true emergency. Chatham 911 Communications Services is committed to ensuring that our citizens receive prompt access to emergency services. In order to provide timely services during this holiday period we need the help of our citizens in utilizing the 911 system only for emergencies and knowing the local laws regarding the use of fireworks in our community. “

When to call 911

For fireworks-related issues that pose life safety threats or fire hazards, residents should call 911 for police, fire or medical help.

Examples include a person injured by fireworks, airborne fireworks landing on a building or wooded area posing a fire risk and the size of fireworks gathering and unruly behavior to pose a threat to others.

Be mindful of pets

Fireworks can be stressful to some pets. “Keep pets indoors as much as you can,” said Animal Services Director Dr. Jake Harper. “Reduce pet stress by playing music and make sure they are microchipped.”

Have a safe holiday weekend!

Robert Catanese

Chatham County Public Communications Office/Videographer

124 Bull Street

Savannah, GA 31412

(O) 912-652-7968

(C) 912-658-6559

rcatanese@chathamcounty.org