

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia*



*Friday, July 4, 2014*

## ENSURING A SAFE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION MEANS KNOWING THE LAW ON FIREWORKS IN DC

July 4th is traditionally a time for parades, backyard barbecues and the spectacular fireworks display on the National Mall. Unfortunately, the Independence Day holiday is also a time when serious injuries associated with illegal fireworks are all too common. Nationwide, nearly 10,000 people a year are treated in hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries; more than 40 percent of the victims are ages 14 and younger. So again this year, the MPD is joining with other public safety organizations in advising the public to know the law on fireworks in DC. District law prohibits all firecrackers, as well as any fireworks that explode (including cherry bombs, salutes, Roman candles, floral shells, and artillery shells) and any fireworks that launch after being lit (such as bottle rockets, parachutes, buzz-bombs, pinwheels, helicopters, and jumping jacks). Fireworks that have a side fuse or that contain mercury, arsenic or other dangerous materials are also prohibited. Among the fireworks that are allowed in the District are small sparklers, fountains, torches and other novelty items.



» For detailed information on fireworks laws in DC, as well as useful links to fireworks safety tips, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/fireworks>

### Characteristics of *Illegal* Fireworks

An illegal firework as defined in Article 27 of the DC Official Code may have any of the following traits:

- It moves;
- It explodes;
- It emits a spark or flame greater than 12 feet;
- It has a side-mounted fuse or a fuse inserted at any point along the length of the product's surface;
- It contains mercury, arsenic, magnesium, phosphorus, or any other highly-oxidizing agent;
- The Fire Marshal considers it to be dangerous to the safety of any person or property.

## THE MPD HARBOR PATROL STRESSES SAFETY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

This weekend, many captains and their crews will hit local waters for a little fun in the sun – and on the water – to celebrate Independence Day. The MPD's Harbor Patrol Unit is reminding boaters to respect the water and to practice important safety measures. In particular, boaters are being warned that boating while under the influence is strictly prohibited on DC's waterways. Harbor Patrol officers will be out this holiday weekend – and throughout the summer – looking for impaired boaters and other safety violations. Boat owners and guests are also reminded of the critical importance of personal flotation devices – or "PFDs," for short. US Coast Guard regulations require that all boats have a wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available, and the proper size for the intended wearer. Boaters need to ensure that there are properly fitting PFDs for all children who may be aboard their vessels. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. Most adults need an extra 7-12 pounds of buoyancy to keep their heads above water. A PFD can provide that "extra lift" to keep you afloat until help comes. Your weight isn't the only factor in how much extra lift you need. A person's body fat, lung size, clothing, and water conditions are also important.



- » For more information about PFDs and their use and care, as well as other safety and equipment requirements, visit:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrol>
- » The Harbor Patrol offers boating safety courses that are required of anyone who operates a boat in DC. Get the 2014 schedule at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/boatingsafety>
- » Harbor Patrol wants you to have a safe and fun boating season. Wear a lifejacket, boat sober, and use common sense. Watch the Harbor Patrol PSAs at:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VJpj\\_Fg5BA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VJpj_Fg5BA)

## STREET CLOSURES PLANNED FOR MULTIPLE JULY 4TH EVENTS

On Friday, July 4, 2014, there will be several events taking place in DC in relation to the Independence Day Festivities. *Due to the extremely heavy pedestrian crowds associated with these events, motorists are encouraged to exercise extreme caution when traveling in these areas. In addition, those wishing to attend these events are encouraged to use public transportation.*

**A Capitol 4th: Celebration on the National Mall and July 4th Parade on the National Mall.** Major streets affected include Independence and Constitution Avenues, between 3rd and 17th Streets. The 9th Street Tunnel and the 12th Street Tunnel will also be closed for the duration of the Parade. Motorists should be advised that the 14th Street Bridge and the Roosevelt Bridge will remain open throughout the day. Motorists are reminded that there is no parking or stopping on the bridges. Any vehicles that stop on the bridge will be immediately ticketed and towed.

### Recommended Alternative Routes

395 North and utilize the 3rd Street Tunnel to access areas north of the Mall.

- Utilize Route 695 to access 295 which will give motorist's access to Pennsylvania Avenue and New York Avenue to access areas north of the Mall
- Following the conclusion of the July 4th Parade, motorists will once again be able to utilize the 9th and 12th Street tunnels to provide north and south access across the Mall.

**46th Annual Palisades July 4th Parade.** Road closures begin at 12 pm and conclude at approximately 1:30 pm. MacArthur Boulevard will be closed from Reservoir Road to Arizona Avenue for this event. There will be rolling street closures during this event.

**Capitol Hill July 4th Parade.** The annual parade on Capitol Hill will form at 8th & I Streets, SE at 8 am. The parade will begin at 10 am and end at 12 pm. There will be rolling street closures during this event.

- » For complete details on street closures related to the Independence Day activities, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/release/traffic-advisory-street-closures-multiple-events-0>

### Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at [kaylin.castelli@dc.gov](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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