

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, July 3, 2015

## 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 2015 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 INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS

On Saturday, July 4, 2015, the Fourth of July Celebration will take place in the District of Columbia. In conjunction with this event, there will be several street closures that motorists should take into consideration:

### Streets Closed from 6 am until approximately 11 pm

- TR Bridge Inbound to Constitution Avenue. All traffic diverted to the E Street Expressway
- Independence Avenue, SW from 15th Street to 23rd Street, SW
- 23rd Street NB from Constitution Avenue to Virginia Avenue, NW. Southbound 23rd Street will be allowed to flow and access outbound TR Bridge.
- 22nd Street, NW from C Street to Constitution Avenue
- 21st Street, NW from C Street to Constitution Avenue
- 20th Street, NW from C Street to Constitution Avenue
- 19th Street, NW from Virginia Avenue to Constitution Avenue
- 18th Street, NW from Virginia Avenue to Constitution Avenue
- 17th Street, NW from New York Avenue to Constitution Avenue, NW
- 15th Street, NW from Pennsylvania Avenue to Independence Avenue, SW
- Henry Bacon Drive, 7th Street from Constitution Avenue, NW
- Constitution Avenue from 14th Street to 23rd Street.
- Arlington Memorial Bridge
- South Bound Rock Creek Parkway closed at Virginia Avenue
- 7th Street from Pennsylvania

Avenue, NW to Independence Avenue, SW

- 4th Street from Pennsylvania Avenue, NW to Independence Avenue, SW

### The following streets will be closed at approximately 11:15 am for the Independence Day Parade and will remain closed for the remainder of the day:

- Constitution Avenue from 3rd Street to 14th Street, NW
- 14th Street from Pennsylvania to Independence Avenue, SW
- 12th Street from Pennsylvania to Constitution Avenue, NW
- 10th Street from Pennsylvania to Constitution Avenue, NW
- 9th Street from Pennsylvania to Constitution Avenue, NW
- 6th Street from Pennsylvania to Constitution Avenue, NW
- 3rd Street from Pennsylvania Avenue, NW to Independence Avenue, SW

The 3rd street, 9th street and 12th St tunnels will remain open for travel into and out of the city, however, the 9th Street Tunnel and the 12th Street Tunnel will close during the Independence Day Parade, which will begin at approximately 11:15 am and continue until approximately 4 pm will be closed between Constitution and Pennsylvania Aves.

### National Mall Public Entry Access points

#### July 4th: Open at 10 am.

- Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, immediately south of Theodore Roosevelt Bridge;
- Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street;
- Constitution Avenue and 17th Street;
- Constitution Avenue and 14th Street;
- Westside of 14th Street, north of Jefferson Drive, SW;
- Westside of 14th Street, north of Independence Avenue, SW;
- Maine Avenue and Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW (i.e. formerly 15th Street);
- East Basin Drive, just south of the Jefferson Memorial (visitors will not be able to access the National Mall from this checkpoint); and
- East Basin Drive, at the Inlet Bridge.

In addition to events on the National Mall, RFK Stadium, 2400 East Capitol Street, NE will be having an event with gates opening at 9 am. Washington Nationals, 1500 South Capitol Street, SE will play with first pitch at 11:05 am. Expect heavy traffic around these locations.

All street closures and listed times are subject to change based upon prevailing or unexpected conditions.

Motorists could encounter possible delays if operating in the vicinity of this event and may wish to consider alternative routes. The Metropolitan Police Department and the D.C. Department of Transportation also wishes to remind motorists in the vicinity of this event to proceed with caution as increased pedestrian traffic can be anticipated.

» For complete details on street closures related to the Independence Day activities, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov>

### 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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