

# Fullerton Police Department Statistical Information 2019 Annual Report

Total fireworks related calls for the time frame of July 4 at 0000 hours until July 5 at 0300 hours (4<sup>th</sup> of July):

<b>2019</b>	<b>200 fireworks related calls</b>
2018	195 fireworks related calls
2017	223 fireworks related calls
2016	242 fireworks related calls
2015	217 fireworks related calls
2014	203 fireworks related calls
2013	145 fireworks related calls
2012	137 fireworks related calls
2011	86 fireworks related calls

Total fireworks related calls for the time frame of July 1 at 0000 hours until July 5 at 0300 hours:

<b>2019</b>	<b>265 fireworks related calls</b>
2018	301 fireworks related calls
2017	348 fireworks related calls
2016	447 fireworks related calls
2015	290 fireworks related calls
2014	294 fireworks related calls
2013	191 fireworks related calls
2012	182 fireworks related calls
2011	145 fireworks related calls

The Fullerton Police Department staffed three, two-officer units that were specifically assigned to handle fireworks related calls. These six officers were paid for by the organizations that were granted permission to operate a fireworks booth in 2019 as part of the permit/cost recovery process. These officers worked on July 4, 2019 at 2000 hours until July 5, 2018 at 0300 hours. During their 7 hour shift they handled the majority of firework calls for service. Due to the volume of calls for service, night watch patrol reached out to the officers that were working the Fourth of July event at Fullerton High School. After the completion of their duty at the High School they were re-assigned to assist with the demands of the firework calls. During their time from approximately 2300 hours to 0300 hours they confiscated several hundred pounds of illegal fireworks found in plain view. The other fireworks related calls were dispatched to "on-duty" personnel working on the evening of July 4, 2018 to 0600 hours on July 5, 2016. Once again, not included in these statistics is the number of officer-initiated contacts, made by these "on-duty" patrol officers, in which members of the public were contacted.

#### **Areas of Note:**

*Case # 19- 40237 (7/4/19 at 2055hours):* There was a roll over traffic collision involving street racing and one vehicle flipped over blocking a major street as well as another vehicle running off the road into a residence. This was during the peak of the fireworks calls for service and required the temporary re-deployment of firework dedicated officers for rescue operations, and closure of two city streets.

#### **Communications Data:**

Calls for service are historically higher on such national holidays as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This year was no different. In reviewing the number of service calls, the same timeframe of July 1, 2019 (0000 hours) to July 5, 2019 (0300 hours)

was used. During these timeframes, the statistics showed that the percentage of 415 FW calls (versus other service calls) was significantly higher than normal.

7-1-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-1-2016 at 2359 hours - (213) radio calls; (14) 415 FW calls =7%

7-2-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-2-2016 at 2359 hours - (225) radio calls; (16) 415 FW calls =7%

7-3-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-3-2016 at 2359 hours - (237) radio calls; (35) 415 FW calls =15%

7-4-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-4-2016 at 2359 hours - (367) radio calls; (195) 415 FW calls =53%

7-5-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-5-2016 at 0300 hours - (34) radio calls; (5) 415 FW calls =15%

With the higher number of 415 FW calls, during this five day period, the less time officers were able to conduct officer-initiated activities. With less officer-initiated activity, a decrease in arrests will occur. An arrest query was conducted to confirm this hypothesis. The results are as follows:

7-1-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-1-2016 at 2359 hours = 11 arrests

7-2-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-2-2016 at 2359 hours = 22 arrests

7-3-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-3-2016 at 2359 hours = 17 arrests

7-4-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-4-2016 at 2359 hours = 16 arrests

7-5-2019 from 0001 hours to 7-5-2016 at 2359 hours = 22 arrests

The higher percentage of 415 FW calls on 7-3-19 (15%); 7-4-2019 (53%), and 7-5-2019 (15%) directly correlate with the lower number of arrest on 7-3-19 (17); 7-4-19 (16), and 7-5-19 (22).

Firework Stats for Month Prior to July:

<b>2019</b>	<b>128</b>
2018	193
2017	203
2016	250

2019 Weekly Firework Calls In June:

June 1-8	17
June 9-15	16
June 16-22	15
June 23-30	80

#### **Social Media/PSA's leading up to the 4<sup>th</sup>:**

The Fullerton Police Department began receiving numerous complaints regarding illegal fireworks, affecting quality of life for the community, via our social media sites as well as via email through fullertonpd.org, in late June 2019. As has been done in the past, the Social Media Team began a social media fireworks awareness campaign which began on June 24th. This fireworks awareness campaign focused on "Safety Tips", the rules governing Fireworks in the City of Fullerton, Measure X and Ordinance 3183, and the importance of using Safe and Sane Fireworks. This first post was seen and shared by over 22,000 community members on our social media sites.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, FPD hosted "Cookies and Canines" at Rolling Hills Park. This event provides members of the community to interact with police officers in their community and gives community members a chance to discuss issues in their neighborhoods. Many of the officers reported that community members engaged them in conversations about

Fireworks, and the fact that illegal fireworks adversely affect their quality of life during this time period because they are loud, they scare their animals, and they are generally unsafe.

The overwhelming majority of the comments made on social media posts, direct messages, and in person expressed frustration over the use of fireworks (both legal and illegal) prior to the 12 hour legal period on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The comments also expressed frustration over the rampant use of illegal fireworks (i.e. mortars) throughout the City, comparing the City, in many unrelated instances, to a “warzone”. While our social media posts included information on when and how a police officer could legally take enforcement action against those setting off illegal fireworks, many residents still expressed frustration at the police department’s response to illegal fireworks and our inability, in their view, to curtail the practice in its entirety. The bicycle team deployed on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 for a separate issue and were met with many residents that were voicing their concern for the fireworks and the disturbances they caused before the actual 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.

Our continued recommendations moving forward would be to create informational inserts listing the permissible fireworks (Safe and Sane), and the consequences for possessing, selling or discharging illegal fireworks be included in the water bills leading up to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. If enforcement of the ordinance is the primary goal of the City and the Police Department, and not just educating the public of the current FMC’s, additional personnel will be required in order to handle the volume of calls and strictly enforce observed violations. One additional recommendation is additional personnel for a few random days preceding July 4<sup>th</sup> for enforcement and education.

