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June 30, 2026

Joint Statement from Mayor Dave Maughan and Fire Chief Aaron Byington, with the support of the Syracuse City Council

Re: 2026 Fourth of July Holiday Fireworks

Dear Syracuse Citizens,

As we approach the Independence Day holiday, the Syracuse City Administration and the Syracuse City Fire Department remain deeply committed to the safety and well-being of our community. This year's extreme wildfire conditions across Utah have prompted Governor Spencer J. Cox, through the Utah State Forester, to issue a temporary statewide executive order restricting personal fireworks use, while wisely empowering local governments, in consultation with fire officials, to designate areas where fireworks may be discharged within city limits, especially those areas that have little or no difference in risk from the previous years.

We have carefully reviewed these conditions, the Governor's guidance, weather forecasts, historical data, and the specific fire hazards within our city. We chose to include a public meeting with City Council to review all public concerns. We paid particular attention to areas of heavy vegetation, agricultural and farmland areas, subdivisions with homes in various stages of construction, and any areas that increase the risk of fire or complicate firefighting efforts.

After thoughtful consideration, Syracuse City has decided to join our neighboring communities of Layton, Clearfield, Sunset, Clinton, and West Point in opening carefully vetted residential areas for fireworks to be discharged. Our approach is to use guidance from Governor Cox and the State Forester to evaluate all risks and lift the ban in historically lower-risk areas. We believe this represents a balanced compromise that allows celebration in lower-risk areas while upholding Governor Cox's ban in higher-risk areas.

Why This Approach?

Public Safety First: Prohibiting fireworks in higher-risk areas directly addresses Syracuse City's most vulnerable areas and minimizes the risk of devastating fires that could threaten homes, property, and lives.

Consideration of State Guidance: We fully incorporated the Governor's executive order and the State Forester's guidance into our local plan, while exercising our authority to tailor restrictions to Syracuse's unique geography and risks.

Enforcement and Support: The Fire and Police Department will actively monitor compliance, and we encourage everyone to follow all safety guidelines, including having water sources ready, supervising children, and using only legal consumer fireworks.

Safety Plan

Syracuse Fire and Police – We are increasing staffing levels on all legal fireworks discharge dates to provide additional patrol, enforcement, and support calls related to fireworks.

Syracuse Code Enforcement – All vegetation overgrowth cases are being prioritized for resolution to reduce hazards near residences.

We recognize that there are still hazardous areas within the approved areas and encourage everyone to use common sense and extreme caution and to avoid using fireworks near open fields and brush. In non-restricted areas, people using fireworks are civilly liable for any damage caused by using fireworks. In restricted areas, users are liable for damages and may also face criminal charges.

We understand this decision will not be favorable to some in our community. Please know that this decision took several days of discussion and research, including a public meeting and public input, and was not made lightly. We appreciate the community's understanding and cooperation as we navigate these challenging conditions together. For the fireworks map and fireworks safety tips, please visit the following sites:

- Syracuse Fireworks Restriction Map: <https://qr1.be/I938FM>
- NFPA: <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/fireworks>
- Utah State Fire Marshal's Office: <https://firemarshal.utah.gov/fire-safety/fireworks-safety-page/>
- Executive Order: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h-HiMMltrbRmuJKe5tuymg7otC6nUtn/view>

Sincerely,



Mayor Dave Maughan



Fire Chief Aaron Byington