



FIREWORKS

AIR POLLUTION

WATER POLLUTION

NOISE POLLUTION

As enjoyable as fireworks can be, they cause more damage than you may realize. Once a firework explodes in the sky, the gasses are released into the atmosphere where they are inhaled by humans and animals. In addition to the gasses, the debris and burning metals fall back to earth and in many cases into waterways where they litter and contaminate. The fallout can also contaminate the ground and surface waters which eventually leach into our lakes.

Fireworks are composed of many different elements, each contributing to the noise, color or propellant. While these ingredients combine to form a beautiful spectacle, many of them are dangerous. Some of the chemicals in fireworks are described as poisonous, toxic, radioactive, and cancer causing. The fallout may contain any of these chemicals.

Toxic Element	Fireworks Usage	Toxic Effect of Fallout Dust & Fumes
Lead Nitrate/Dioxide/Chloride	oxidizer	Bioaccumulation; developmental danger for children and the unborn; may remain airborne for days; poisonous to plants and animals
Barium	glittering greens	Extremely poisonous, radioactive
Lithium	blazing reds	Slightly toxic
Rubidium	purple colors	Slightly radioactive; can replace calcium in body
Strontium	blazing reds	Can replace calcium in body; can be radioactive
Copper compounds	blues	Dioxin pollution
Aluminum	brilliant whites	Contact dermatitis
Ammonium Perchlorate	propellant	Can contaminate ground and surface waters; can disrupt thyroid functions
Cadmium	firework colors	Extremely toxic, carcinogenic; can bioaccumulate
Potassium Nitrate	in black powder	Toxic dusts, carcinogenic sulfur-coal compounds
Sulfur Dioxide	gaseous byproduct of sulfur combustion	Acid rain from sulphuric acid affects water sources, vegetation and causes property damage

Fireworks cause animals immense fear and stress. Many pets break free and get injured, lost or killed. The ears of most animals are considerably more sensitive than the human ear and fireworks can permanently affect their acute sense of hearing.

A “fireworks awareness campaign” was initiated in 2010 at Lake Hughes, at a time when fireworks would start at the end of June and would be heard every week-end and frequently during the week. Following one display, a large amount of debris was collected from the bottom of the lake.

DUE TO A GROWING CONCERN ABOUT THE USE OF FIREWORKS AND THEIR IMPACT THE LAKE HUGHES ASSOCIATION REQUESTS THAT FIREWORKS NOT BE USED ANYWHERE ON OR AROUND THE LAKE.

Although fireworks have not been totally eliminated at Lake Hughes, there has been a very significant reduction.

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