



Coleman County Judge

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June 30, 2022

Fire and Fireworks

On July 4th, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. One year later and every year following, Independence day has been celebrated with bells and fireworks.

The Commissioner Court of Coleman County had the unpleasant task of considering and possibly taking action prohibiting or restricting the sell or detonation of certain or all fireworks. We did not have this exact data at the time, but we had an idea of the seriousness and cost of the previous fires. I asked Fire Chief Jimmy Watson for wildland county fire data and the following is what he supplied me with. They have responded to 42 wildland calls which burned approximately 9061 acres. There were 4 primary homes lost and 70 known structures threatened, but saved. These 42 wildland fires were started by power lines and lightning but 37 of the 42 were by human negligence. For his department alone, personnel hours are in the high hundreds and firefighting equipment damages have exceeded 35,000. This doesn't include the other 8-9 departments throughout the County.

The Coleman County Commissioner Court made the decision to restrict certain types of fireworks with the main intention of not allowing aerial. This order can be found on the Coleman County website. A person commits an offense if they knowingly or intentionally violate this order. An offense under this order is a Class C Misdemeanor. An even greater consequence is one can be held liable for damages.

Have a Great Independence Day, but please, please, please be aware of your surroundings this weekend and don't become a statistic!!!!