

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE July 16, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire-Rescue's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Summary**

July 4<sup>th</sup> has traditionally been a period of heavy response activity for our police and fire departments. To enhance public safety and mitigate the anticipated rise in Fire/EMS emergencies, Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) carefully prepared and coordinated resources for this year's Independence Day celebrations. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, DFR amplified enforcement efforts to discourage the illegal use of fireworks within the city limits in an effort to minimize fireworks related injuries and property damage. Statistical information for DFR July 4<sup>th</sup> emergency responses tied to potential fireworks involvement is as follows:

<b>Problem</b>	<b>July 4, 2021 Shift Count</b>	<b>July 4, 2020 Shift Count</b>	<b>FY20 Avg Count per normal day</b>	<b>FY19 Avg Count per normal day</b>
02- Dumpster Fire	21	27	1.81	1.51
01- Grass Fire	16	22	3.79	3.32
04- Trash Fire	6	5	1.83	1.87
98- Structure Fire Reported	2	8	2.99	3.45
10F- Fire Reported Out	2	8	5.58	0.91
99- Structure Fire Working	3	5	2.26	2.44
08- Vehicle Fire	13	6	4.62	4.78
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>22.88</b>	<b>18.28</b>

Not surprisingly, the data reveals that DFR responded to more fire related calls on July 4, 2021, compared to the daily average for these same types of calls made on other days during the year. However, the comparing 2021's 67 fire-related incidents on July 4 to the 81 incidents in 2020 shows a decrease of 22.2% in these types of calls. It is our hope that this decrease is due in part to the mitigation and enforcement efforts enacted by DFR, but further analysis is warranted.

The above chart clearly demonstrates the consistent and continued statistical trend that these types of calls are greatly increased on the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday as compared to "normal" days throughout the year.

DFR's Prevention and Investigation Bureau maintains a strong campaign to educate citizens on the danger of fireworks use, and designed a community engagement program comprised of alternate celebration activities and enforcement as follows:

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### **Education**

DFR's Inspections & Life Safety Education Division includes Fireworks safety information as part of their education program presentations beginning in late June. Graphic billboards and interview through a local news broadcast was used for messaging. These messages were echoed through Department Social Media outlets. Additionally, education efforts were especially concentrated in 120 multi-family dwellings that had demonstrated historically high fireworks activity.

### **Enforcement**

Both DFR and DPD increased their presence and commitment of personnel for enforcement purposes. DFR's Inspections Division, along with DPD, worked in a concerted effort to initiate proactive measures to prevent the discharge of illegal fireworks in the City of Dallas. Both departments responded to incidents and addressed citizen complaints regarding the possession or discharge of fireworks within the city limits of Dallas. In total, DFR and DPD confiscated 1572.6 pounds of illegal fireworks and issued seventeen (17), class C violation citations for possession of illegal fireworks. Both figures represent an increase from 2020 (11 citations issued, and 896.6 lbs. confiscated). Fire and arson investigators were staffed to investigate fire incidents related to fireworks.

DFR, DPD, and various city of Dallas departments made a concerted effort to engage, educate and provide safety to the citizens during the holiday celebrations. We look to build on this year's success as we look ahead to next year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations.



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Dallas Fire-Rescue Department

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Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
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Directors and Assistant Directors