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HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fireworks are Banned in the City and Parts of The County

Starting Sunday, June 28, inspectors and investigators from the Fire Marshal's office will patrol the City to remind people of the firework laws and to answer questions. If there are any fireworks found, they will be confiscated.

Citizens should be aware that it is illegal to discharge fireworks or to have fireworks in your possession in the City of Houston. HFD will be enforcing the fireworks ban in the Limited Purpose Annexation areas of Harris County.

The fines are anywhere from \$500 - \$2000 for each individual firework. Each case is different and it would be up to a judge to determine the exact amount. Warnings are no longer used because of the seriousness of the firework laws. If there are any fireworks found, they will be confiscated.

If a minor is caught with fireworks, the parent or guardian will receive the fine even if they were unaware of the minor's possession and/or usage.

Citizens should also be aware of the burn ban that has been extended until July 6 for the entire county. The ban prohibits the sale, use or transportation of all stick rockets and missiles with fins within the county.

Additional information, including the LPA maps may be found on the HFD website at www.houstonfire.org.

*Media - The Houston Fire Department will be holding a joint press conference with the Houston Fire Marshal Office, HFD EMS and Harris County Fire Marshal Office to discuss the holiday safety and demonstrate the dangers of fireworks on July 1, 2009, at 3 p.m. at the HFD Training Academy, 8030 Braniff.

Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

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