Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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PRESS RELEASE

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New Year's Eve Guidelines

Location of Incident: Yuma County, AZ

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office would like to remind the community of guidelines regarding the use of fireworks and the illegal discharge of firearms into the air during the New Year's celebration.

Shannon's law was enacted in 2000 making it a felony offense to discharge firearms randomly into the air. In June 1999, 14-year-old Shannon Smith was talking on the telephone in the backyard of her central Phoenix home when a bullet that was fired into the air over a mile away struck her in the head, tragically ending her life.

Per Arizona Revised Statute 13-2904.6, it is illegal to recklessly handle, display or discharge a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument. This is not only a felony, but also an act that could result in devastating and long-term consequences.

In regards to fireworks, the law currently allows the public to possess or use novelty/minor fireworks; however, many types of fireworks remain illegal in Arizona, specifically those designed to rise into the air and explode.

Fireworks can only be used from June 24th through July 6th and December 24th through January 3rd. Fireworks are prohibited on all public property, including parks, sidewalks, streets and right-of-ways, except by permit for supervised public displays only.

Arizona Revised Statute 36-1601 provides the definition for permissible consumer fireworks:

* Ground and handheld sparkling devices
* Cylindrical fountains
* Illuminating torches
* Wheels
* Ground spinners
* Flitter sparklers
* Toy smoke devices
* Wire sparklers or dipped sticks
* Multiple tube ground and handheld sparkling devises, cylindrical fountains, cone fountains and illuminating torches

This does not include anything that is designed or intended to rise into the air and explode, or detonate in the air. Examples of non-permissible fireworks:

* Fireworks commonly known as bottle rockets
* Sky rockets
* Missile-type rockets
* Helicopters
* Torpedoes
* Roman candles
* Jumping jacks

It is unlawful to sell, offer or expose for sale, use, explode or possess any of these fireworks.

Please be safe and responsible when using fireworks, and be courteous to your neighbors. If you have pets, please keep them inside while using fireworks.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office would like to encourage all citizens to be safe this holiday season and to report any violations of the statutes listed above to your local law enforcement agency.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist