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This release was revised June 28 per the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office decision to prohibit all public/commercial fireworks displays across Arapahoe County.

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State and Arapahoe County ban personal use of fireworks

Littleton, CO — Arapahoe County wants to remind residents of the dangerous fire conditions and the Governor's statewide fire ban and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's fire ban, which both include a ban on the personal use of fireworks.

"We ask that residents respect the statewide fire ban and help us to protect our natural resources during this dry and dangerous fire season," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Chair Nancy Sharpe.

Arapahoe County's open burning ban prohibits the use of all personal fireworks and charcoal fueled fires. This ban includes unincorporated Arapahoe County and the City of Centennial, and many cities within Arapahoe County also have enacted fireworks and open fire bans. The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Open Burning Ban is enforced as a County Ordinance violation that, upon conviction, could result in fines of \$500 for the first offense, \$750 for a second offense, and \$1,000 for a third and subsequent offenses.

Despite the ban, residents may see fireworks stands operating in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

Under Colorado law, an ordinance banning the sale of fireworks must first be read at a public hearing and then published in a newspaper. The ordinance cannot be adopted until at least 10 days after publication. Due to the timing of the Governor's Executive Order and the legal requirements to adopt an ordinance, a ban of fireworks sales would be ineffective for Independence Day 2012.

All fireworks stands will be posted with a notice from the Arapahoe County Sheriff advising of the prohibition on the use of all fireworks. ~~The only exception to the fireworks prohibition will be authorized public displays, with adequate public safety assets on scene.~~

~~Residents wishing to see a professional fireworks display are encouraged to check their local community for a list of events. Arapahoe County is helping to sponsor Fourth of July fireworks displays in the City of Englewood and Littleton, as well as in the City of Aurora. Visit www.littletongov.org and www.auroragov.org for more information.~~

~~Residents also are invited to attend the 2012 Arapahoe County Fair to see a professional fireworks display on July 27 and 28 (weather permitting). For more information about the Arapahoe County Fair, visit www.arapahoecountyfair.com~~

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