



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Independence Day 2022 – Proper Use of Fireworks

Date: June 28, 2022

As Independence Day approaches, it is anticipated that many residents have already purchased, or plan to purchase, fireworks, to celebrate the holiday.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis would like to provide a reminder on the **proper use of fireworks** in Hernando County.

Florida State Statute (FSS) 791.08 addresses the recreational use of fireworks **during designated holidays**. The days/dates defined as designated holidays are as follows:

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Independence day (July 4)
- New Year's Eve (December 31).

In addition to FSS 791.08, Hernando County Ordinance specifically notes that the use of fireworks is **NOT** prohibited on a designated holiday. This means, on the three days/dates listed above, residents are permitted to use fireworks for recreational purposes.

The use of fireworks for recreational purposes on any other day/date, is prohibited by county ordinance. Upon observation of same, Hernando County deputies will take the appropriate action. This code violation is punishable by a \$50 fine (first offense) and will apply to both adults and juveniles.

Fireworks may be seized from all persons found to be in violation of the ordinance.

Anyone using fireworks on Independence Day, should do so in a safe and responsible manner.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.