

TO: CITY MANAGER

2005 JANUARY 19

FROM: FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: FIREWORKS

PURPOSE: To provide information relating to the sale and use of fireworks during Halloween 2004

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

Calls received during the period of 2004 October 29 - 31 were false alarms, accidental alarms, public service, medical emergencies, etc. and totalled 155 responses. From this total, 16 were determined to be fireworks related.

By definition, fireworks are classified as low hazard by the Explosive Regulations Act Class 7.2.1, which are used for visual pyrotechnic effects such as fountains, roman candles, lawn lights, pin wheels, volcanoes, sparklers, etc. Screechers and other types of rockets that produce loud bang effects are also sold legally under the low hazard classification.

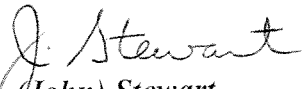
Fireworks this year were only allowed to be set off or discharged on October 31st. This appears to have had a positive impact on the number of problems encountered as well as receiving fewer complaints and concerns from the previous year.

Firecrackers, on the other hand, are small fireworks with entwined fuses which are illegal to sell or possess. These items appear to be sold and distributed through a variety of illegal sources which are difficult to police.

It is speculated that firecrackers are coming from various off shore locations such as China, India, Mexico, United States and from First Nations Reservations in both the United States and Canada.

The Fire Department continues to work closely with R.C.M.P. and City staff in our attempts to enforce the City By-Laws.

We are continuing to discuss this matter with our GVRD neighbours hoping to collectively reach a satisfactory resolve which will not impact negatively on the neighbouring community.


J.A. (John) Stewart
Fire Chief

JAS:ph

cc: Councillor Nick Volkow