



EMERALD KEEPERS

EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

FIREWORK FALLOUT

Fireworks lighting the sky are a festive part of Independence Day, but those colorful sparks blow around for miles before falling to earth negatively impacting people, animals, and the environment.

AIR POLLUTION

As fireworks explode, harmful chemicals are released into the air. These toxins include sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and heavy metals such as lead and mercury. These can irritate the respiratory system, especially for people with asthma and bronchitis. Fireworks also produce large amounts of smoke and haze that can elevate air pollution to dangerous levels for several hours after a show.

WATER POLLUTION

Fireworks are often released over water to reduce the risk of fire, but the chemicals and debris then pollute

our local waters. A common firework chemical is ammonium perchlorate, which is known to contaminate ground and surface waters and harm aquatic creatures. Firework particles also contribute to increased microplastics in our waterways.

WASTE

Firework remnants are nonrecyclable waste. Volunteers cleaning up Coronado beaches on July 5 have found firework debris. Remnants from fireworks include plastic, fiberglass, paper, and cardboard. The litter from fireworks also harms wildlife that ingest or become entangled in the material.

NOISE

Fireworks' sudden loud noises can be triggering for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. Wild animals and pets, who are more

sensitive to high-frequency noise than humans, often experience high stress from firework noise. Animal shelters see a sharp increase in lost and injured pets over the Fourth of July as animals are spooked and become disoriented by fireworks.

ALTERNATIVES

Some San Diego communities, including La Jolla and Ocean Beach, have replaced fireworks with less damaging visual special effects. Lasers or drone displays, similar to the one at the Opening Ceremony of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics are a high-tech option to entertain and brighten the night sky without harming people or our planet.

Celebrate the Fourth of July with friends and family while staying safe and keeping Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.



Drone light show in Bangkok, Thailand

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Emerald Keepers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

