Preparation for 4th of July Holiday Season

Media Partners:

This year El Paso County did not meet the KBDI threshold to regulate fireworks in the unincorporated areas of the County. We ask for your assistance in encouraging El Pasoans to please take extra precaution this year if they plan to pop fireworks in the unincorporated areas of the County, and encourage them to attend the many 4th of July fireworks displays throughout the community.

CURRENT CONDITIONS:
Statutorily, to be able to regulate fireworks on any given year, Texas counties must reach 575 on the Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI). The KBDI is a statewide index which measures drought from 0-800 and updated daily by the Texas Forest Service. The higher the number on the scale the worse the drought conditions in a given County.

Today, El Paso County's KBDI is at 540. That said, the sale of fireworks has started today and will continue through the Fourth of July holiday for 2019. Statutorily the sale of fireworks for the Fourth of July holiday runs between June 24th through midnight on July 4th.

ADDED LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE:
The El Paso County Judge's Office has been meeting with law enforcement and emergency personnel to ensure an operations plan is in place, specifically for the far east side of El Paso County where
thousands of residents flock to buy and use fireworks. Those entities include the Office of Emergency Management, the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, Emergency Services District 1 & 2, City of El Paso Fire Department, City of El Paso's Fire Marshal and the Texas Department of Emergency Management.

There will be a large law enforcement/safety personnel presence over the holiday, specifically in the area of east Montana Ave to ensure the safety of the residents that live in the area and patrons purchasing/setting off fireworks. The heavy law enforcement presence will also help address drinking and driving, altercations, and any other misconduct deemed harmful.

ROAD CLOSURES:
To help ensure the safety of residents in our unicorporated areas the El Paso County Commissioners Court has authorized certain streets to be closed/barricaded to help keep congestion from overwhelming residential areas. Determining street closures was done in collaboration with Neighborhood Association leadership and the El Paso County Sheriff's office. These street closures include:

**East Montana Community**
- Flagger St and Tangerine Ave
- Krag St (North of Montana Intersection)
- Krag St and Marvin Lane
- Vista de Este Rd and Marvin Lane

**Mission Ridge Community**
- Mission Ridge Blvd and Runway Ave
- Stansbury Dr and Colonial Bluff Rd
- Paseo del Este Blvd and EP City Limit

**CLEANUP EFFORTS ON JULY 5th**
We urge the public to use caution when traveling along Montana Ave given the heavy congestion and use of fireworks. We ask that individuals please pick up after themselves given there has historically been a large amount a trash left behind for residents in the area. El Paso County in collaboration with the Adult Probation Department and Sheriff's office will be cleaning the area of left over debris on the morning of July 5th.

**PROFESSIONAL FIREWORKS DISPLAYS:**
The public is urged to attend public displays which will be occurring at various locations across the community. Below are a few options for families:
Monday, July 1st:

- El Paso Chihuahuas Game-Independence Day Celebration

Tuesday, July 2nd:

- El Paso Chihuahuas Game-Independence Day Celebration

Wednesday, July 3rd:

- El Paso Chihuahuas Game-Independence Day Celebration

Thursday, July 4th:

- El Paso County 4th of July Celebration at Ascarate Park
- City of Socorro Independence Day Extravaganza at Cougar Park
- Pop Goes the Fort-Ft. Bliss at Biggs Park
- Wet N Wild Waterworld
- Western Playland

Saturday, July 6th:

- Red, White & Brew Festival

Click here to view the details provided to the Commissioners Court today.

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