



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Update on Fireworks Related Death**

High Power, Illegal Fireworks Were Involved

**Montebello, CA** – On the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6:30 p.m., Montebello Police were summoned to a private residence on report of a person injured by fireworks. Upon arrival Montebello Fire and paramedics were also summoned. An adult male victim, age 42, was suffering from serious injuries as a result of attempting to use an illegal firework. Lifesaving aid was rendered at the scene and the victim was transported to a local hospital where additional attempts to save his life failed due to the severity of his injuries. The victim was pronounced dead at the hospital.

A preliminary investigation indicated the victim was attempting to ignite or use a high powered, mortar type, aerial firework that is illegal in the City of Montebello, County of Los Angeles, and the State of California. The victim apparently attempted to hold the device when the firework went off and caused severe trauma to his upper torso. Montebello Fire personnel investigated and confiscated all fireworks paraphernalia found at the scene at that were involved in the accident. A full report is pending. The identity of the deceased is not being released at this time, but preliminary findings indicate he was the only one injured. Initial findings indicate he personally brought the illegal fireworks to this private gathering with him. No other persons were injured. Witness statements have been gathered as part the investigation and pending report.

Although “safe and sane” fireworks are legal and sold in the City of Montebello, high powered aerial fireworks are illegal. The City took significant actions in the weeks preceding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to emphasize and promote safety and awareness among residents through its “See – Stay –Safe” campaign. Residents were actively encouraged to report seeing illegal fireworks and to use common sense safety awareness when using “safe and sane” fireworks. This tragic accident and death was avoidable and serves as an unfortunate and grim reminder of the danger posed by illegal and high power fireworks. The City continues to encourage all residents and community members to be vigilant and safe to avoid injury and death.

*The City of Montebello was founded in 1920 and is located eight miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. Its history dates back to the days of the Franciscan missionaries and today boasts a full array of services including police, fire and one of the region’s largest public transportation systems, [Montebello Bus Lines](#). The city’s multi-cultural resident population is approximately 65,000 covering a footprint of approximately four square miles. For more information visit [www.cityofmontebello.com](http://www.cityofmontebello.com) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

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