



Bishop Fire Department

209 W. Line Street- Bishop, CA 93514

Press Release

June 17, 2020

For immediate release:

Community of Bishop invited to watch the night sky July 4

We're staying strong, Bishop.

With so many fireworks shows being forced to cancel throughout the country, the Bishop Volunteer Firefighters Association has decided that against all odds, they want to give their community something to celebrate, even if it's impossible for everyone to gather for the traditional tailgate parties.

"We don't want to hurt the ability of all of our community's businesses from opening up," said chief Joe Dell. "If a COVID case was traced back to our event, that would be a strong possibility. Therefore, we want to provide a celebration that will fall within county and state guidelines."

The "Celebrate at Home" fireworks show will take place in the night sky above Bishop at around 9:20 p.m. on the night of July 4. Per the request of the Inyo County Public Health Department, the specific location of the show will remain undisclosed to prevent gatherings, however the height of the fireworks should make the show visible throughout the greater Bishop area. The community is invited to celebrate the Fourth of July and enjoy the fireworks show from home. Tune in to KIBS radio, 100.7 FM to enjoy patriotic tunes alongside the fireworks show.

The event, which is put on each year by the Bishop Volunteer Firefighters' Association, went through several revisions during the past three months as the firefighters tried to find a way to make the show happen while staying in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. While Inyo County is moving into Stage Three of governor Gavin Newsom's reopening plan, large gatherings of any kind are still not allowed, even with carefully considered COVID-19 compliance plans. The firefighters seriously considered canceling the show completely, but ultimately voted to do everything they could to make it happen because they wanted to give their community this win.



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Traditionally, the cost of the fireworks show is covered by sponsors and gate fees. The pandemic has put a tremendous strain on many of those sponsors, and this year's show is short \$7,000. The association chose to pay for this difference out of their own fund.

A GoFundMe has been set up to help offset the cost of the show. It can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bishop-volunteer-firefighters-association>. Anyone who would like to send a check may do so to the Bishop Volunteer Firefighters Association at P.O. Box 1236 Bishop CA 93515, with "Fireworks" on the memo line. Any funds raised in excess of the cost of the show will go to the Bishop volunteer firefighters' equipment fund.