



SYRACUSE CITY

Syracuse City Council Special Business Meeting

June 29, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

In-Person Location: Syracuse City Hall, 1979 W. 1900 S.

Electronic Via [Zoom](#)

Connect via telephone: +1-301-715-8592 US, meeting ID: 870 5603 8387

Streamed on Syracuse City [YouTube Channel](#)

1. Meeting called to order.
Invocation or thought.
Pledge of Allegiance.
Adopt agenda.
2. Public Comment: This is an opportunity to address the Council regarding your concerns or ideas. Please limit your comments to three minutes. (*Individuals wishing to provide public comment may do so via email to City Recorder Cassie Brown, cassieb@syracuseut.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on June 29, 2026. Comments submitted by the deadline will be read for the record of the meeting.*)
3. Discussion and/or action regarding Syracuse City's response to State-wide fireworks ban.
4. Adjourn.

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In compliance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and services for this meeting should contact the City Offices at 801-825-1477 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

### CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

The undersigned, duly appointed City Recorder, does hereby certify that the above notice and agenda was posted within the Syracuse City limits on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026 at Syracuse City Hall on the City Hall Notice Board and at <http://www.syracuseut.gov>. A copy was also provided to the Standard-Examiner on June 27, 2026.

CASSIE Z. BROWN, MMC  
SYRACUSE CITY RECORDER



# COUNCIL AGENDA

June 29, 2026

## **Agenda Item #3            Discussion and/or action regarding Syracuse City's response to State-wide fireworks ban.**

### ***Message from Mayor Maughan***

The fireworks question took a dramatic turn on Thursday and evolved over the course of Friday quite a bit. As you are aware the Governor presented an executive order that will be included in the packet. The following morning ULCT with the State Forrester held a meeting to explain the intent and expected outcome from the Governor's Action.

A couple of things that need to be noted. The Governor of the State does not have the power to change State law merely to suspend it in the state of emergency. The Governor is declaring a state of emergency to suspend the law that says cities only have authority to ban fireworks in zones that historically have been hot spots for wildfires. The Governor is using the office of the State Forrester to declare the entire state an area of concern and ban fireworks.

Part of this executive order gives Mayors, in conjunction with Fire Chiefs, the power to lift the suspension within their city limits. In the meeting Friday morning the State Forrester was very clear that she expects cities to lift that suspension.

As I stated in my text to the council, nothing prevents the mayor from calling on the council for advice before making this decision. I believe we are a council for a reason, and we all should contribute to the decision, as it will be important for us to all support whatever decision is made for Syracuse.

I have received many calls on all sides of this issue. Within minutes of the Governor's press conference, I had received calls from owners of Firework stands where families depend on this income. I also heard from farmers who are concerned about their crops as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is when fields will be intentionally dry and ready for harvest. I understand both and consider both valid concerns.

#### Points to consider:

- Historically Syracuse would not qualify for a ban on fireworks under the current State Law.
- Historically Syracuse has not responded to many wildfires associated with fireworks. The majority of the fires in our city limits have been associated with people putting spent but still hot firework remnants in their trash can and starting a trash fire. Even when that trash fire has spread to the associated home our crews have handled such fires quick and effectively to minimize damages.
- Even though we border some open spaces, historically Syracuse has not seen field fires.
- Most of the open fields that border our city are county lands and the firework ban will remain

in place regardless of our decision in the city.

- Syracuse is a city that continues to have some open farm fields among residential properties. The most common crop appears to be hay which is at great risk.
- Syracuse is well irrigated, and water is available to residents and agriculture properties alike.
- Our fire crew had planned to have extra staff and a brush truck available for nights where fireworks are legal.
- Historically it is very hard to enforce firework misuse as it spread across the city.
- A farm field lost to fire takes much longer to recover than a firework stand lost to fire.
- Firework sales are still open and not affected by any part of this ban on using fireworks. That is not within the mayor or city authority to alter
- Even in the severe drought year a couple of years ago we didn't have unusual fire challenges, just the typical as described previously.
- The city has issued 8 permits for Fireworks sales in the city.

Options:

1. The Mayor and Fire Chief can do nothing and the discharge of fireworks within the city limits will remain banned by the order of the State Forester.
2. The Mayor and Fire Chief can use a map to designate areas we will allow discharge of fireworks.
3. The Mayor and Fire Chief can blanket lift the ban on fireworks within the city limits.

Personally I lean towards a version of option 2, and am open to your input in our public meeting. The version of option 2 I am leaning toward is to lift the ban at least 200 ft away from any open space of more than an acre. There are small undeveloped lots inside neighborhoods that if they caught fire, the Chief is confident could be handled without losing control. The reason for 200 feet is that is the national fire code definition of safe operating distance for the classes of fireworks allowed by law in Utah. We have already looked at a map and this does mean that some families will have to move one street over to get away from a farm field, but I think that is reasonable to ask in these dry conditions.

The State Forester's fireworks ban is included as an attachment to this memo, as is City Attorney Winchester's analysis of this memo.

## CRW Summary of the State Forester's Order (Not generated by AI)

June 27, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is prohibited?                                                             | The discharge of personal fireworks (aka Division 1.4G common state approved explosives)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Where is the prohibition in effect?                                             | Everywhere in the State of Utah                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| From when to when?                                                              | July 2 through July 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Can cities allow the discharge of personal fireworks?                           | Yes, within "municipally designated areas"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Who determines "municipally designated areas?"                                  | Joint determination between mayor and fire chief                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| What is the process?                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Timely notify State Forester in writing</li><li>• Provide a map or coordinates depicting the exact area(s)</li><li>• Notification may include an executive order, letter, or equivalent</li><li>• <i>Notification may include the specific period during which fireworks may be discharged if that period differs from July 2 through July 5</i></li><li>• Notification must be submitted through the State Forester's designated communication channel (<i>I don't know what that is – and as of this moment, there's nothing on the State Forester's website – in the Friday meeting, there was talk of a Google Form that I assume someone will be creating and making available over the weekend or Monday</i>)</li></ul> |
| Can cities limit the discharge period between July 2 through July 5?            | Yes, see bullet 4 above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| What is the deadline to notify the State Forester?                              | Close of business (5:00 pm) on June 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Is the ban automatically lifted upon timely notification to the State Forester? | Yes, timely notification that complies with the above process is all that's required – i.e., the City does not need to do anything else                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Are professional displays banned?                                               | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Are other laws still in effect?                                                 | Yes. So, for example, the city cannot ban otherwise legal personal aerial fireworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



## **Utah State Forester's Order Issuing a Statewide Fireworks Ban**

Due to current and forecasted weather conditions, coupled with Governor Cox's Executive Order 2026-04 declaring a state of emergency in the State of Utah due to the imminent threat of a fire disaster caused by the July fireworks season, and in consultation with the Governor's Office and the Department of Public Safety, the State Forester has determined additional measures must be taken to prevent the ignition of forest and rangeland fires.

### **Findings**

Pursuant to Utah Code § 65A-8-212, the State Forester finds the following:

1. The State of Utah is in an unprecedented drought presenting "extreme" and/or "extremely hazardous conditions" under the National Fire Danger Rating System;
2. Under these extreme conditions, there is an unusually high risk of devastating fires resulting from the discharge of fireworks;
3. For the purposes of this Order, the "fireworks" subject to the statewide ban are all fireworks falling within the definition of "Division 1.4G common state approved explosive(s)". See Executive Order 2026-04; Utah Code § 53-7-225(3); Utah Code § 53-7-202(5).
4. These existing or historical hazardous environmental conditions necessitate controlled use of any ignition source, including fireworks;
5. Based on the extreme fire danger posed statewide, the discharge of fireworks anywhere in the State of Utah, including within municipal boundaries, creates a significant and material risk of a fire disaster;
6. Utah Code § 15A-5-202.5(1)(b) authorizes the State Forester to prohibit fireworks on state land and private unincorporated lands in areas that are: (a) mountainous, brush-covered, forest-covered, or dry grass-covered areas; (b) within 200 feet of waterways, trails, canyons, washes, ravines, or similar areas; (c) in the wildland urban interface area; and (d) in a limited areas outside these hazardous areas to facilitate a readily identifiable closed area;

7. Utah Code § 65A-8-212(1)(a) authorizes the State Forester to prohibit fireworks on broader areas beyond what is specified in Utah Code § 15A-5-202.5 when it is determined “extremely hazardous” conditions exist;
8. Pursuant to Utah Code § 65A-8-212(5), the only non-federal limitation on a geographic area where a statewide fireworks ban is cannot be imposed within the “municipal boundaries of a city or town”;
9. Utah Code § 53-2a-209(4) authorizes the governor to suspend the enforcement of a statute during a state of emergency if the statute is directly related to the emergency and suspension is necessary to address the state of emergency; and
10. Executive Order 2026-04 temporarily suspends the operative effect of Utah Code § 65A-8-212(5) and, within the duration of Executive Order 2026-04, the State Forester is authorized to prohibit the discharge of fireworks within municipal boundaries.

### **Order**

Based on the aforementioned findings, the State Forester issues the following Order:

1. As a result of the unprecedented drought that is worsening under current conditions, I determine all areas within the State of Utah qualify as “extremely hazardous conditions” under the National Fire Danger Rating System requiring restrictions and/or limitations on certain human activities.
2. For the duration specified in this Order, in addition to the closures or prohibitions specified within Utah Code § 65A-8-212, and subject to the exceptions specified herein, the discharge of fireworks is banned throughout the State of Utah, including within the municipal boundaries of Utah cities and towns.
3. The duration of this statewide fireworks discharge ban shall be from July 2, 2026 through July 5, 2026.
4. The only exceptions to this statewide fireworks discharge ban are for municipalities designating “municipally designated areas” within a municipal boundary that are selected for the discharge of fireworks and that comply with each of the following conditions:

a. “Municipally designated areas” shall be areas jointly identified for the discharging of fireworks by a municipality’s mayor and fire chief. In any circumstance where the mayor is unavailable, or there are questions or concerns regarding compliance with this Order based on the governing structure of a particular political subdivision, the municipality may consult the provisions within Utah’s Disaster and Recovery Act for guidance. Utah Code §§ 53-2a-203 et seq.

b. Each municipality wishing to create a “municipally designated area” shall notify the State Forester, in writing, of those intentions and provide a map or coordinates depicting the exact area within the “municipally designated area”. Written notification may include an executive order, letter, or equivalent. Written notification may include, in addition to the location of the “municipally designated area,” the specific fireworks period to be allowed if divergent from the Independence Day fireworks period. Written notification and any associated map(s) shall be submitted through the State Forester’s designated communication channel.

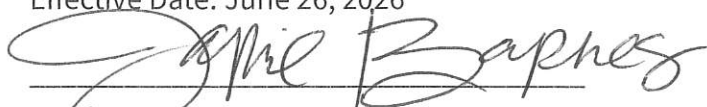
c. The **deadline** for a municipality to notify the State Forester of a “municipally designated area” shall be the **close of business (5:00 p.m. MDT) on June 30, 2026**.

d. If a municipality complies with each of the conditions listed above, then this Order prohibiting fireworks is lifted for the area within the “municipally designated area”.

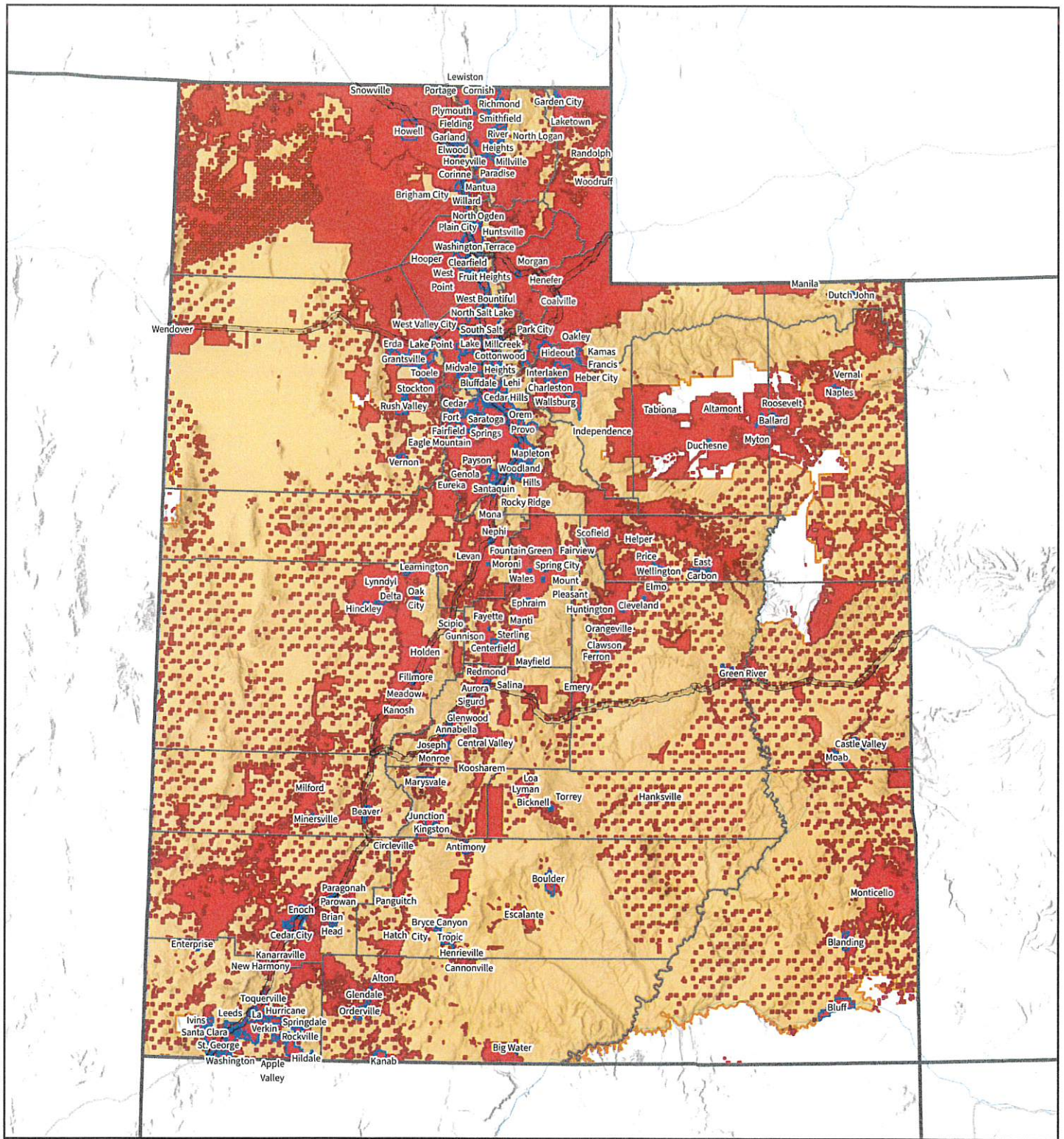
5. In addition to municipalities promptly and properly designating “municipally designated areas,” firework displays and related performances licensed by the Utah State Fire Marshall Division and permitted by a Utah municipality, county, or fire district are excepted from this Order.

6. All laws, statutes, regulations, restrictions, or ordinances not in conflict with this Order remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date: June 26, 2026



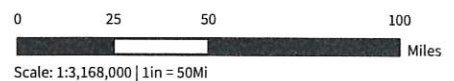
Jamie Barnes, State Forester



# Statewide Fireworks Ban

6/26/2026

- Statewide Fireworks Ban (Municipally Designated Areas not shown)
- Municipalities (this order applies)
- Fireworks perpetually banned on all federally managed public lands, regardless of this order



Author: FFSL

Date: 06/26/2026

Basemap: ESRI, UGRC

Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 UTM Zone

12N



Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Disclaimer: Data represented on this map is for GENERAL REFERENCE OR INFORMATIONAL USE ONLY and is not for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information. By using this map, you agree to the terms located at [fls.utah.gov/about/maps](https://fls.utah.gov/about/maps).