

Esperance Fireworks

Harry George

Too many fireworks!

It was one thing when it was just a few folks in the neighborhood. Someone cooked hotdogs and someone else provided potato salad. The littles ran around with sparklers and did smoke snakes and ground spinners. The not-so-littles fired off lady fingers and roman candles. Maybe someone had an M80 (but just one) for the whole evening. The adults fired off some fountains, plus maybe a set of mortar balls. Called it quits by 10:00 PM.

But these days, it is out of control. People come from miles around to fire off high-powered fireworks in Esperance. I understand the displays are competitive and ratchet up each year. And that people have given up on the professional shows elsewhere to come here.

It is hard on the nerves of adults, babies, and animals. Trees and roofs are in danger. The smoke is cloying even for healthy lungs. It usually leaves a mess in the streets. **This is not acceptable.**

Laws?

See: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/290/Fireworks>

All the southwest county cities have banned fireworks. Esperance is not in a city so people think it is ok to come from miles around to do fireworks in Esperance. Actually even in Esperance fireworks are banned in public streets and in parks. And some of the stuff being fired apparently isn't legal anywhere.

What do we want?

- 10:00 PM quiet time. No midnight bonanza. No 3 AM surprises. That includes fireworks, loud music, and loud people. People stumbling around drunk at 3AM and laughing or arguing is annoying but ok. Gunshots at 3AM not so much.
- No illegal fireworks. Save the serious stuff for a shooting range. Or for a professional crew. (My daughter did that for a few years; they are really careful on the professional shows).

How?

1. I'd rather do this neighbor to neighbor. First step is to just let everyone know that there is a community reaction. It was the hottest topic at the recent Esperance meeting – even annexation was less heated than fireworks. Enough is enough.
2. Ask the sponsors to meet together to resolve competitive urges – let the sponsors decide how to fix the problem.
3. If this year is as bad as last year, then we go to the county for help. Maybe some mediation. We don't need a vigilante war. “An armed society is a polite society.”