



Volume 13 Issue 7

July, 2020



**Feature Stories**

- Fourth of July
- Illegal Fireworks
- Conflict

**2020 STATISTICS**

*June 1 — June 30*

**District Average Response Time:**

9 min. 19 sec.

**Responses by Type:**

Fire: 7

EMS: 266

Other: 92

**Total: 365**



*Proudly serving the communities of Blaine, Birch Bay, Custer, Laurel and the unincorporated areas of Lynden & Bellingham*

*“Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community”*

## Fourth of July Fireworks Information

**HOURS OF DISCHARGE**

- JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM
- JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>: 6:00 PM – MIDNIGHT
- JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

*Unincorporated Areas (County)*

**WHAT IS LEGAL/ILLEGAL**

- Bottle rockets, missiles, etc. are illegal in Washington State off reservation land. (anything on a stick that flies is prohibited)
- Any fire work device that is not colorfully labeled and with cautionary statements are illegal (i.e. fire crackers, etc.)
- Any person in possession of any commercial-grade firework is prohibited
- Any modification of **any** firework is illegal (i.e. sparkler bomb, etc.)
- Any manufacturing, possession, or use of improvised devices (i.e. tennis ball bomb, pipe bomb, etc.) is illegal
- No M-80, M-100, etc. or similar devices are legal at any time, anywhere!
- Sky lanterns are now legal to use when tethered.
- No fireworks on county or state properties (including parks).



## City Fireworks Sales and Usage

	<b>SALES PERIOD</b>	<b>HOURS OF DISCHARGE</b>
Bellingham	Banned	Banned
Blaine	July 1 to July 4: 9 am—9 pm	July 4: 10 am—12 am
Everson	June 28: 12 pm—11 pm June 29 to July 3: 9 am—11 pm July 4: 9 am—10 pm	July 3: 9 am—11 pm July 4: 9 am—12 am July 5: 9 am—11 pm
Ferndale	July 1 to July 4: 9 am—11 pm	July 4: 9 am—12 am
Lynden	Sales follow State Law	July 1 to July 3: 9 am—11 pm July 4: 9 am—12 am July 5: 9am—11 pm
Nooksack	Jun 28: 12 pm—11 pm June 29 to July 3: 9 am—11 pm July 4: 9 am—10 pm	July 1 to July 3: 9 am—11 pm July 4: 9 am—12 am July 5: 9am—11 pm



For more info visit the [WC Fire Marshals Office](#)

Please remember to keep the district up to date with any changes including your contact information.

All changes should be directed to Kelly.

These changes may include:

Phone

Address

Email

Family Additions

Name changes

# Can you tell the difference between Illegal Fireworks and Illegal Explosive Devices?

## It could save a life!

### Which fireworks are illegal in our state?

These are listed as Consumer Fireworks but are illegal to sell, possess, and/or discharge within the State of Washington. They are legal to sell, possess, and/or discharge on tribal lands.

#### Firecrackers

Generally 1/4" x 1 1/2" or less that come in packs to large bricks. A firecracker makes a single "pop" sound. Many firecrackers strung together will make repetitive "popping" sounds.



#### Bottle Rockets

A firecracker type (tube) attached to a 12" long wooden stick. The stick is placed in a bottle and once lit, it rises into the air, travelling laterally before exploding.

#### Sky Rockets and Missiles

Similar to the Bottle Rocket, a Sky Rocket is attached to a stick or has fins and may have a plastic cap. A missile will have fins rather than a stick. Once lit, it ascends rapidly, high into the air where it explodes.



Illegal explosive devices are often wrongly referred to as fireworks because they look like large firecrackers, but they can have as much explosive power as a 1/4 stick of dynamite.

#### Mass-produced Homemade Devices Example: M-80's, M-100's, etc.



#### Homemade Explosives Example: Pipe Bomb & Tennis Ball Bomb



#### Altering consumer fireworks making an explosive device Example: Sparkler Bomb



## Do not handle explosive devices!!

**If possible, have the local bomb squad evaluate and pick up the device.**

Possession, manufacturing, or using illegal explosive devices is a **criminal offense** in Washington.

**Call the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3946 for additional information.**



FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU – PREVENTION DIVISION  
(360) 596-3946 FAX: (360) 596-3934  
E-Mail: [Fireworks@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Fireworks@wsp.wa.gov)



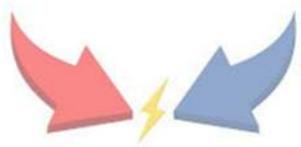
3000-410-003 (R 5/12)

# Conflict in the Workplace



Chief Robert R. Rielage, CFO, EFO, FIFireE, is the former Ohio fire marshal and has been a chief officer in several departments for more than 30 years.

Unfortunately, in today's world, conflict is everywhere – in our politics, our culture and our individual lives. The fire service is no exception. Should conflict be avoided? Should it be ignored or accommodated? Should we compromise? Collaborate? Compete? How should we handle it?



First, let's try to define conflict. The dictionary says that conflict, when used as a noun, means "sharp disagreement; or opposition as to interests or ideas; an inability to reconcile impulses with realistic or moral considerations."

Expanding on that, I'd say that conflicts arise when two or more individuals or groups interacting in the same situation see their position differently because of dissimilar background, disposition, reason or outlook. A conflict is more than a disagreement – it is a situation where people perceive a threat to their livelihood, order or wellbeing, such as their physical, emotional status or power.

## HOW TO APPROACH CONFLICT IN THE FIRE SERVICE

In the fire service, conflict can be internal or external, individual or group related, personal or interpersonal. Most firefighters can name a serious conflict that has occurred during their career. It could be fueled by a decision of the governing administration to reduce the budget, the number of fire stations, staffing or services. The combatants could be the fire administration versus the fire union or firefighters' association, citizens believing the cost of the fire service outweighs the benefits and services provided or an internal conflict among supervisors and firefighters regarding our roles, such as the addition of community risk reduction in our daily routine.

When conflict occurs, some people cannot handle that dichotomy within themselves. They knot up inside and try to avoid or deflect the conflict onto others. An example of this is the officer whose response is, "Don't blame me, I'm just the messenger and I'm relaying the decision from someone else."

Perhaps a worse response is "I agree with you, but this is the decision and we have to live with it." Or, "I'm the officer, and this is what we're going to do because I said so." Responses like these exacerbate the situation, and are why conflict management is such an important component of officer leadership.

## OFFICER LEADERSHIP COURSES SHOULD INCLUDE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

With good leadership, conflict resolution begins before the struggle occurs. When a serious problem arises, the administration, the chiefs, union and officer corps representatives need to meet to discuss the issues from all perspectives. Collaboration and compromise that meets the majority of the needs of all parties can help avoid the conflict altogether.

Good, honest communication among stakeholders not only avoids conflict, but gives ownership of the decision and the decision process to all parties or organizations, and builds trust among stakeholders.

Remember, however, if the groups involved can't come to a joint resolution, the decision falls to others, such as the fire chief, Board of Fire Commissioners, union or attorneys. If these groups have been invited to the table for discussion, and their points of view heard, then they are obliged to enter into the final decision process. Failure to participate, or withdrawal from the discussion, delegitimizes their later objections to the final decision.

So, how can conflicts be managed? Here are several steps to guide you, no matter what role you play in decision making, on how to handle conflict:

*continued on pg. 4*



## Events to Celebrate July Birthdays

- 7 — Kim Gates
- 13 — Kenneth Cunningham
- 28 — Dar Kazemi



*Board Meetings may be conducted via Zoom Meeting*

## NWFR

Thurs. July 16  
9408 Odell St 61  
Blaine — 1:00 p.m.

**FIREWORKS**  
Get the Year's Best Fireworks and Save Thousands of Dollars

18,500 people were injured in the US each year

ALL THE INJURIES FROM FIREWORKS ARE PREVENTABLE! CALL FOR FIREWORK SAFETY TIPS TO 202.

**Fireworks Injuries by Body Part:**

- Eye: 14%
- Arm: 6%
- Hand or Finger: 31%
- Leg: 17%
- Head, Face or Ear: 22%
- Trunk or Other: 10%

**Injuries by Age of Victim:**

- 14-17: 2%
- 18-24: 12%
- 25-34: 23%
- 35-44: 20%
- 45-54: 18%
- 55-64: 15%
- 65+: 20%

**Males: 70%**

Remember: Only the aged & infirm should use this type of firecracker or fire string. Do not use in the presence of children or other persons who are not capable of emergency evacuation procedures.

Always use fireworks responsibly. Only use fireworks on designated days.

Be safe. If you need to use fireworks, do so public, cheap and by experts.  
For more information, please visit: [www.nwfr.org/fireworks](http://www.nwfr.org/fireworks)

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
Fireworks Division



4142 Britton Loop Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Providing quality service for  
a safe community



### CPR / AED Classes 2020

Class will be held at various fire stations around the district. Check out <https://www.nwfrs.net/resources/classes/> for more information and to reserve your spot.

*Donations of nonperishable food items are encouraged but not mandatory. All food donations will be forwarded to local area food banks.*



FOR THE SAVEJY OF  
EVERYONE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY, ALL CPR  
CLASSES HAVE BEEN  
CANCELLED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR  
ANY INCONVENIENCE

## Conflict cont

*continued from pg. 3*

1. Accept conflict. Conflict will naturally occur, and happens in nearly every ongoing working relationship.

2. Be a calming influence. Most decision are not life-changing.

3. Listen attentively. Listen to all sides and ask questions to clarify the viewpoints of others.



4. Analyze the conflict. What factors are the real issues that underlie the conflict?

5. Model neutral language. Use a third person or using another organization or group as an example of positions for potential solutions.

6. Separate the person from the conflict. Make the conflict impersonal.

7. Work together. You can do more in less time or with less stress and energy if you agree to come to an inclusive decision together.

8. Agree to disagree. Agree that on some issues, certain individuals or groups will disagree.

9. Know your limits. Know what is essential to you and what issues you can use to compromise.

10. Compromise. Have the ability to compromise on an issue important to an opponent, especially if it's of little consequence to your present or future needs.



11. Know your allies. Know who is in your corner and what is important to them.

12. Support your allies. Don't undercut an ally's position.

As individuals, the result of ongoing conflict can manifest as physical stress on most of the parties involved. This can result in physical changes to an individual, such as low energy, headaches, nausea, aches, pains, tense muscles, chest pain, rapid heartbeats, insomnia, frequent colds and flu-like symptoms. Increased stress has never solved a conflict and, in fact, has a negative impact on the negotiation process.

Ways to manage this conflict-induced stress include:



1. Track your stressors. What words or subjects set you off? Have someone else take the lead on those specific topics.

2. Develop healthy habits. Watch that you don't overeat, remember to exercise frequently and take frequent breaks.

3. Keep on point. Establish boundaries on both topics and the length of discussions on each topic.

4. Take time to recharge. Don't relentlessly tackle a particularly difficult subject again and again.

5. Learn to relax. Read a book, take a walk or do whatever it takes to be refreshed and clear your mindset.

6. Talk to others. Know with

whom you can discuss sensitive issues in confidence and not be compromised.

7. Have a support system. Everyone needs



at least one confidant with whom you can be fully open without being judged. This could be a spouse, a co-worker or an experienced chief from an outside department whose objective advice you trust implicitly.

Finally, any leadership and development classes should include several hours on conflict management. Putting a newly promoted or junior officer into certain situations without the essentials of conflict resolution is a recipe for disaster, unfair to the officer and will eventually result in the problem having to be resolved at a higher level of the department than necessary.

Conflict will always be a part of the fire service, and learning how to handle it is well worth your time and effort to learn.

Stay safe!

