



News Release



Los Angeles Field Division

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ATF PROMOTES A SAFE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

LOS ANGELES – John A. Torres, special agent in charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Los Angeles Field Division, is asking the public to celebrate the arrival of the New Year responsibly and safely.

ATF wants you to know that celebratory gunfire is not only unsafe, it is against the law. Discharging a firearm into the air is a crime and can lead to felony charges under California state law or federal charges if that person is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Bullets shot into the air can climb up two miles and then fall at a rate of 300 to 700 feet per second, killing or injuring those that are struck.

“ATF wants to ensure that all those who are planning on celebrating New Year’s Eve, to have a great time and enjoy family and friends. We don’t want to see the New Year ruined by someone being injured or killed just because someone thought it would be ‘fun’ to shoot a gun in the air,” Torres said.

In addition to celebratory gunfire, ATF is reminding the public that the use of illegal fireworks is also prohibited. Illegal fireworks meet no safety standards and can be deadly in the hands of children. Federally banned fireworks include M-80s, M-100s, Silver Salutes and Cherry Bombs.

“ATF will work with our state and local law enforcement partners to ensure that persons who possess firearms or fireworks illegally are prosecuted to the fullest extent possible to include federal prosecution if warranted,” added Torres.

“If you see anyone shooting a gun into the air or using illegal fireworks, please contact your local police department immediately, or call ATF at **1-800-ATF-GUNS (800 283-4867)**. For illegal fireworks, you should call ATF at **1-888-ATF-BOMB (888-283-2662)**,” Torres said.

More information about ATF and its programs is available at www.atf.gov.

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