

PARKS COMMITTEE COMMENTS - APRIL 10, 2013  
Paul Noeldner, 136 Kensington, Maple Bluff  
Active Member of Wild Warner, Friends of Cherokee Marsh, and Madison Audubon

FIREWORKS COMMENTS  
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HERE'S A STORY ABOUT WOODCOCKS

(play the peent and flight song)

- Woodcocks need the natural areas that Parks has preserved!
- \* (SHOW THEM the odd little football shaped BIRD WITH PENCIL BEAK and the PICTURE)
  
- TELL THE WOODCOCK STORY
- Imagine getting up at 5am in the predawn light and standing by the upper meadow
- Irish, Jack and I were there for the magic of WOODCOCKS Spring performance
- I stood very still and saw two deer walk by 30 feet away (thank god we don't shoot em here yet!)
- In the silence, listen for their WEIRD "PEENT" calls
- \* (make some "peents" or play on phone if handy)
- We heard 3 and maybe 4 calling from around the preserved Upper Warner Meadow!
- Then we heard WHISTLING (make call) of their AMAZING SKY DANCE MATING FLIGHTS 300 FEET STRAIGHT
- They were hiding under the SUMACS and other underbrush and flying up over the MEADOW
- We loved it, over all too soon
  
- WE RESEARCHED THIS AMAZING ACTIVITY
- CITIZEN SCIENCE AND EBIRD REPORTING are critical to good management
- Woodcocks HUGE eyes and LARGE cerebellum are specially located for their behavioral needs
- they can consume 20 angleworms in 5 minutes in the leaf litter
- they need sumacs and underbrush for cover
- some migrate further north, some will nest and stay in Wisconsin all summer

parkswoodcocktalk.txt

- MOST IMPORTANT:

- WE I FOUND THAT THE UPPER WARNER MEADOW IS A WOODCOCK "SINGING GROUNDS"!
- THIS HAS BEEN LOST IN OVERDEVELOPED PARKS!
- LIKE PRAIRIE CHICKEN LEC, VERY IMPORTANT SCIENTIFICALLY
- THE UNDISTURBED QUIET SINGING GROUNDS IS CRITICAL FOR THEIR COURTSHIP
- WE NEED TO KEEP THIS NATURAL HABITAT INTACT, NO LOOSE DOGS ETC
- THESE AND OTHER BEAUTIFUL LITTLE BIRDS need the food and shelter Warner Park provides

WRAPUP

- PLEASE MOVE EXPLOSIVE FIREWORKS AND TOXIC DEBRIS AWAY FROM THE WETLANDS AND NATURAL AREAS
- KEEP THE NATURAL AREAS in Warner and other Madison Parks that birds and other critters need
- WE ALL ENJOY IT AND THE HEALTHY RECREATION IT OFFERS!

THANK YOU!



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

MAY 21 2009

ACQUISITION  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
(INSTALLATIONS & ENVIRONMENT)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
(INSTALLATIONS & ENVIRONMENT)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(INSTALLATIONS, LOGISTICS & ENVIRONMENT)

SUBJECT: Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Fireworks to Minimize Perchlorate Releases

The Chemical & Material Risk Management Division in my office developed a series of risk management options (RMOs) for perchlorate. The options were approved for implementation by the Emerging Contaminants Governance Council. One of the RMOs recommended the distribution of BMPs for minimizing the release of perchlorate on DoD-owned properties as a result of fireworks displays.

The attached BMPs are provided for use as appropriate by your installations. Wide distribution is recommended.

My point of contact for any questions regarding the BMPs is Mr. Paul Yaroschak at (703) 604-0641, Paul.Yaroschak@osd.mil.

Wayne Arny  
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense  
(Installations and Environment)

Attachment:  
As stated



## **Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Use of Recreational Fireworks on DoD Property May 2009**

### *Scope*

This document is designed to provide DoD personnel, special events organizers, and facilities contracting personnel with suggested Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the use of recreational fireworks on DoD property. The BMPs are designed to reduce the potential for releases of perchlorate to the environment. The BMPs contained in this document pertain to recreational fireworks used on DoD property.

### *Perchlorate and Fireworks*

The vast majority of aerial display fireworks are manufactured in Asia (primarily China) and use perchlorate as an oxidizer in formulations and in the flash powder. Over the years, perchlorate use and content in fireworks has increased, primarily (in the form of potassium perchlorate or sodium perchlorate) to produce more vivid color effects. Perchlorate content in fireworks imported from foreign countries can vary and it is difficult to verify the composition. Fireworks color effects are most typically produced by the launching of aerial display shells that contain numerous "stars" or small pellets containing a fuel/metal/oxidizer mixture. Aerial shells containing flash powder are used in "aerial salutes" and produce a loud bang/flash. When an aerial shell bursts, stars that fail to burn are often called "blind stars".

### *Potential Environmental & Health Impacts from Fireworks*

The use of perchlorate-containing fireworks can result in environmental contamination via atmospheric fallout after a fireworks event, and/or from "duds" or "misfires." Duds are aerial shells that are launched from a mortar, fail to ignite in the atmosphere, and fall back to earth. Misfires are aerial shells that do not launch from the mortar. Statistics on fireworks that are launched but not burned are not available. While most of the perchlorate present in the exploding firework is expended, it appears that the deposition of blind stars, un-ignited display shells, and residues from the fireworks or lift charges, and other pyrotechnic debris may be the primary mechanism of potential sources of perchlorate release to the environment. The potential environmental impact is dependent on the size of the display, the perchlorate content of the fireworks, the extent of incomplete combustion, improper disposal of duds and misfires, excessive debris fallout, and lack of post-display housekeeping and cleanup. Fireworks displays, if near drinking water sources, groundwater recharge areas, or other sensitive habitats, have the potential for significant environmental impact due to the solubility of perchlorate in water. There are documented links between fireworks displays and surface water perchlorate contamination. At relatively low levels, perchlorate can affect thyroid function in susceptible populations. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has health risk information available at the following web site:  
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts162.html>

## Attachment

### *Fireworks on DoD Property*

DoD typically conducts fireworks exhibitions on DoD property, where permitted, as part of Fourth of July fireworks displays, air shows, or other open base events. Due to the hazard associated with commercial fireworks, the activity is usually contracted out to a properly licensed and insured commercial vendor, to provide all the necessary transportation, storage, security, setup, and functioning of aerial fireworks for a safe on base display. Contracting for commercial fireworks services is usually done as a Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) procurement through a NAF contracting office or as a pass-through by a special events coordinator. Coordination is required with on base authorities, including Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR), the Fire & Emergency Services Branch, Safety Departments, DoD police, and Public Affairs. Effective implementation of BMPs requires teamwork across the organization and incorporating the BMPs into future contract specifications for fireworks shows on DoD property.

### *Best Management Practices for Recreational Fireworks Use on DoD Property*

The implementation of BMPs can minimize the potential impacts of perchlorate from fireworks. The following BMPs represent a collection of recommended approaches.

- **BMP 1 – Low or No-Perchlorate Containing Fireworks:** Where not cost prohibitive, DoD installations should use “eco-friendly” perchlorate-free or low perchlorate fireworks of documented quality. Installation personnel may want to collect bids for fireworks shows with both perchlorate-free or low perchlorate fireworks, and regular fireworks to make an informed decision.
- **BMP 2 – Post Event Cleanup<sup>1</sup>:** The fireworks show contractor should institute rigorous post-event cleanup (i.e., “housekeeping”) practices. Fireworks companies or display sponsors should remove all visible shell debris encountered at the site during the search conducted immediately after the fireworks show. Consider using station forces to augment the fireworks contractor personnel for wider coverage of the show area the next morning. Meteorological conditions at the launch site and charge altitude dynamics should be monitored so that blind stars and duds can be searched for in their most probable location
- **BMP 3 – Managing Duds and Misfires:** All “duds” or “misfires” must be removed from the site and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations and manufacturers’ instructions. Under no circumstances are duds or misfires to be buried. Duds and misfires can be doused in water for safety. Contain and/or promptly address runoff in cases where water is used to douse duds or misfires.
- **BMP 4 – Managing Un-Ignited Pyrotechnics:** Within 24 hours of a fireworks show, the pyrotechnics operators should, to the extent practical, collect any blind

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<sup>1</sup> In California, the State Fire Marshal oversees the licensing of pyrotechnic operators. They require the pyrotechnic operator to fill out a post-display form listing information concerning duds, etc. The web site with further information is at [http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer\\_fireworks.php](http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer_fireworks.php)

## Attachment

stars and un-ignited pyrotechnic material found during the inspection of the entire firing range. Blind stars are often released at high altitudes and can therefore travel great distances from the launch site. They can also be released as a result of the breakage of dud shells. The stars can be the size of a dime and can evade detection during the post-show walkover at night. Station forces should be used to augment the fireworks contractor personnel for maximum and wider coverage of the show area in daylight. The collected material must be managed as appropriate according to local, state, and federal regulations and not buried on site.

- **BMP 5 – Citing Events:** The location of fireworks must be made to minimize risk to drinking water sources. DoD personnel and the contractor should be aware of the existence of surrounding drinking water supplies and keep fireworks displays as far away from them as possible. Of particular concern are fireworks displays near surface waters used for drinking water supplies and within the recharge areas of public drinking water supply wells.

The table below provides other sources of information on perchlorate, fireworks and other BMPs.

<b>General Information and Web Resources</b>	
<b>General DoD Perchlorate Information</b>	Available at <a href="https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/MERIT/EC/ECAL/Perchlorate">https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/MERIT/EC/ECAL/Perchlorate</a>
<b>General Information on Perchlorate with Brief Coverage of Fireworks</b>	Perchlorate: Overview of Issues, Status, and Remedial Options (September 2005), Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council, Available at <a href="http://www.itrcweb.org/guidancedocument.asp?TID=32">http://www.itrcweb.org/guidancedocument.asp?TID=32</a>
<b>The Chemistry of Fireworks</b>	Website that covers science of fireworks Available at <a href="http://www.ch.ic.ac.uk/local/projects/gondhia/index.html">http://www.ch.ic.ac.uk/local/projects/gondhia/index.html</a>
<b>Fireworks: How They Work</b>	“What’s That Stuff: Fireworks”, Chemical and Engineering News, Volume 79, Number 27, page 30, July 2, 2001 Available at <a href="http://pubs.acs.org/cen/whatstuff/stuff/7927sci3.html">http://pubs.acs.org/cen/whatstuff/stuff/7927sci3.html</a>
<b>Fireworks: Environmentally Friendly</b>	“Pyrotechnics for the Planet”, Chemical and Engineering News, June 30, 2008, Volume 86, Number 26, pp. 14-18. Available at <a href="http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8626cover.html">http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8626cover.html</a>

# FIREWORKS

Mon Apr 8, 2013 7:10 pm (PDT) . Posted by:  
Jim,

Thank you for the transcript. Kudos to whomever prepared it -- they seem to have captured everyone's remarks clearly, evenhandedly, and accurately.

That said, I read through the whole document and could not find a remark anything like a description of the Northside as "the city's trash receptacle." I understand you and other members of Wild Warner would like to see Rhythm & Booms eliminated for good, but your rhetoric has been quite overheated.

The discussion in your meeting transcript, as well as the draft reports prepared for the Committee on the Environment, have been clear that the fireworks' role in the lagoon's ecology is minimal compared to runoff, park landfill, and the shallow anoxic water.

Personally, I think your standards for human activity in Warner Park are unreasonably strict, and support Rhythm & Booms as one of the very few community events that serves ALL of Madison.

DB

↳ Handed out by Tim Nelson.