



Chief of Police Carl Dabadie

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**

Chief Carl Dabadie and the Baton Rouge Police Department are offering the following tips and information to help citizens enjoy a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday:

Fireworks are illegal everywhere in the city of Baton Rouge, as well as all of East Baton Rouge Parish, and will be confiscated if found. Violators could also face criminal charges.

Law enforcement will strictly enforce the law against anyone found firing a gun into the air.

Patrols will be actively looking for drunk or impaired drivers on roadways across the city and several sobriety checkpoints are planned as well.

As far as the downtown 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and fireworks display:

Anyone coming downtown for the fireworks show on the river should arrive early and not wait until the last minute. Downtown exit ramps may be temporarily closed off if traffic backs up onto the interstate.

Motorists are urged to utilize all available routes into downtown, including River Road, North Street, Laurel Street, Florida Blvd., North Blvd., Government Street and Convention Street.

No ice chests, BBQ pits, tents, or pets will be allowed to be brought into the festival grounds.

Over 100 uniformed law enforcement personnel will be specifically assigned to the downtown area in addition to regular patrols. BRPD presence will also be supplemented by personnel from the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office and Louisiana Department of Public Safety. In addition, there will also be many plainclothes officers who will be blending in with the crowds.

Police will use officers on foot, bicycles and horse mounted patrols, as well as aerial surveillance.

Technology will be utilized to supplement officers, including fixed and mobile cameras, microphones and night-vision equipment.

There will be “zero tolerance” for criminal activity, and anyone jeopardizing public safety, even for misdemeanor offenses, may be arrested and booked.

Groups will not be allowed to loiter or gather after the fireworks show ends. Officers will actively assist in helping clear the area as quickly as possible once the fireworks display concludes.

There will be a large police presence dispersed throughout the downtown area and mobile Command Posts will be parked and manned on River Road. Citizens should not hesitate to notify law enforcement immediately if they see or hear anything suspicious or that might indicate a potential problem.

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Cpl. L’Jean Mckneely Jr  
Office of the Chief of Police  
BRPD Public Information Office  
(225)389-3948  
lmckneely@brgov.com