



TOWN OF RANDOLPH
INC. 1793

HEADQUARTERS

TOWN OF RANDOLPH
MASSACHUSETTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

10 MEMORIAL PARKWAY RANDOLPH, MA 02368-4506

CHARLES D. FOLEY, JR.
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

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Memorandum

TO: Chairman Paul J. Connors

FROM: Fire Chief Charles D. Foley Jr. 

DATE: 7/02/08

2008 JUL 2 PM 4:08

RE: July 3rd Fireworks Permit

It is with great regret that that I inform you that this Department is unable to secure the appropriate and necessary safety measures to exercise responsible risk management procedures for the July 3rd fireworks display. Therefore, I am unable to approve the application for the permit submitted by the Board of Selectmen to hold the fireworks event on July 3rd.

As Chief of Department, I am charged with the responsibility of evaluating all measures of precaution for not only the people in the community, but property as well. In my expert opinion, the risk of exposure with pyrotechnics for not only the residents but also to the largest capital assets of the Town, the High School and Town Hall, is significant.

During the 12 years of the July 3rd fireworks display, the Department has had sufficient volunteers to run hose along the roof of the high school and adjacent to the Town Hall. With such a limited and confined area, extraordinary safety precautions is required annually to protect these assets. Due to insufficient manpower necessary to provide the appropriate and responsible measures to ensure the safety of the community, I cannot be assured that valuable capital assets of the Town would be safe from harm. There has been minimal discussion of alternative sites; however, nothing is available to accommodate this operation.

In the interest of responsible safe staffing, I cannot provide on duty members for these details. In the past, we have assigned 8 paid Firefighters to man these details and I cannot responsibly allocate men already assigned to duty to do otherwise. Local 1268 has made diligent efforts to solicit its members for volunteers. Requiring employees to volunteer is not a mandate of any employment and given the holiday weekend, many members of the Department look forward to being with their families, as do many families in our community. I have requested that Local 1268 ask its membership for volunteers once again and canvass the department members of local communities to obtain volunteers to man the details.

The priority of the day must be to man the stations adequately, to address the safety of parade participants and spectators, then the fireworks. I remain hopeful that we will be able to permit a safe fireworks event with all the necessary precautions and safety measures in place next year.