

To the Board of Supervisors and the Executive Officer:

For the Record

Numerous complaints to 911 about illegal fireworks on Caspar Beach in Mendocino County last night between sunset and 11-11:30 apparently went unanswered by any law enforcement officers.

Moreover Dispatch for the the California Highway Patrol and the City of Fort Bragg gave the same unacceptable response: we will pass on the call.

Two hours of loud bangs and towering showers of sparks around cliffs that are bone dry (some contain gorse) without a timely response from law enforcement —The County Sheriff— is unacceptable.

Dispatch admitted the nearest Sheriff was at Point Arena, a good hour drive from Caspar Beach.

Dispatch no longer calls Parks Enforcement, only the Sheriff.

Meanwhile fireworks apparently did cause a fire last night in the campground N of Westport. But perhaps because the sheriff refuses to enforce the mask law, we are short firefighters.

Alas Six Firefighters Test Positive for COVID-19 at Leggett Cal Fire Station; Leggett and Laytonville Cal Fire Stations Closed for Next 72 Hours Over Fourth of July Weekend – Redheaded Blackbelt

<https://kymkemp.com/2020/07/04/six-firefighters-test-positive-for-covid-19-at-leggett-fire-station-leggett-and-laytonville-fire-stations-closed-for-next-72-hours-over-fourth-of-july-weekend/>

During the last several years of Tom Allman's tenure, deputies drove by Caspar Beach or talked to people there telling them fireworks were illegal. It worked. Violations dropped sharply.

Why when fire fighters are in shorter supply did this Sheriff stop policing Caspar Beach or make sure a deputy was available between Fort Bragg and Mendocino on a night known for wholesale lawlessness?

I ask you question the Sheriff at the next public meeting of the Board of Supervisors on why he could not police this section of the coast on the 4th of July.

He never had problems with Sheriffs writing parking tickets during the 4th of July Parade. But he's can't muster the manpower to ticket or arrest lawbreakers who could kill people?

Let me anticipate his answers.

1) **He is short handed.**

Was every deputy on call on the night of the 4th? If not why not? Does he have sick deputies?

If so why weren't substitutes brought in? Has he considered the installation of cameras to identify violators at locations where fire works violations have occurred for decades?

Did he make any arrests of fire works violators?

2) **There were more important calls requiring response.** Ie assault.

Why doesn't he anticipate higher call loads by having more staffing?

3) **Fires aren't dangerous on the coast**— talk to the veterinarian who suffered burns on 30% of his body this week on Comptche Road.

If he truly has a problem of insufficient funds, it is your duty to get more deputies hired. No excuses please. It is the highest duty of the government to protect our safety. If it cannot do that, it is time for the county voters to find leaders who can protect us.

PS. I request this message be printed in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

"Mask it or Casket" might be a radio advertising campaign by the county.

Alan Stein

PS the Health Officer apparently does not know if she should report the death of a county resident, treated in the hospital here and then shipped to Marin, as a death in this County. I know of two instances where people who died out of state were listed as deaths in the city where they caught the virus. If county residents lose faith in the veracity of virus stats— and all it takes is one concealment— the already big problems of enforcement are going to rise. Have we had 85 or 190 cases so far? That will be the question on the lips of many. Without daily testing on the coast, the virus stats for this county are unreliable and invalid.