

CELEBRATORY GUNFIRE

SAFETY AWARENESS TIPS



Celebratory gunfire is the intentional discharge of a firearm in celebration of a holiday, birthday, or other special event.

DID YOU KNOW?



On New Year's Eve, HPD logged **1,500 calls** about celebratory gunfire

A **61-year-old Harris County** woman died during a **New Year's celebration in 2020** after she was struck by a stray bullet



On New Year's 2021, an **8-year-old boy** and **24-year-old woman** were injured by celebratory gunfire in **separate instances**



In 2017, Texas State Rep. **Armando Martinez** was struck in the head by a **stray bullet**

THE BOTTOM LINE



Whether we are celebrating a Sweet 16, July 4th, or our favorite baseball team winning the World Series, the use of a firearm during a celebration is illegal and dangerous. Even if the weapons are not aimed directly at another person, a bullet fired from a gun can cause serious injury and death.

- Bullets fired into the air can return to the ground with enough velocity to penetrate a human skull.
- Property damage is another result of celebratory gunfire; shattered windows and damaged roofs are often found after such celebrations.
- Not only is celebratory gunfire dangerous, but it also diverts police and other first responders from other emergencies.

LAWS



- Anyone who fires a gun in a public place without a legitimate reason — you aren't protecting yourself or shooting in a firing range — is committing disorderly conduct. That's a Class B misdemeanor, meaning you could face up to 180 days in jail and/or a \$2,000 fine if you're caught.
- In Texas, anyone who recklessly fires a gun within the boundaries of a city with more than 100,000 residents can be charged with a Class A Misdemeanor, jailed for up to one year, and fined up to \$4,000 — even if he or she fires the gun on his or her own property.
- Anyone who injures or kills someone with a stray bullet could face more serious felony charges.

REPORTING



- If you hear celebratory gunfire in your neighborhood but **do not know** the person(s) doing it, call your local police department.
- If you hear celebratory gunfire in your neighborhood and **know** the person(s) doing it, you may report it anonymously to Crime Stoppers by calling **713-222-TIPS(8477)**.