



ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE



Derek Williams, Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2018

APPROVED: DW

INCIDENT: Fireworks Seizure

CONTACT: Sergeant Bill Russell

OCCURRENCE DATE: June 7, 2018

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STATEMENT:

Ontario Police have arrested a man during an undercover operation targeting the sale of illegal and dangerous fireworks.

Ernesto Jimenez, a 23-year-old man from Riverside, was arrested Thursday after selling illegal fireworks to undercover officers. Jimenez, who was advertising through a social media website, was found to be in possession of explosive aerial fireworks known as mortars. While fireworks classified as "safe and sane" may be legal in some jurisdictions, possession of this type of dangerous firework in the state of California is a felony.

Following his arrest, investigators served a search warrant at Jimenez' residence located in the 10000 block of Zinfandel Lane in the county of Riverside. It was at this location they discovered an additional 250 lbs of dangerous fireworks including aerial mortars. Jimenez has been booked at West Valley Detention Center for a violation of Health and Safety Code Section 12677.

With the celebration of Independence Day just around the corner, the Ontario Police Department would like to remind everyone that possession and ignition of fireworks of any type within the city limits of Ontario is illegal. Violators could face a \$1000.00 fine. Many of these devices pose a significant danger to the health and safety of our residents. Please partner with us in keeping our city safe by enjoying the firework displays put on by those who are permitted to do so.

The annual fireworks show sponsored by the city is free to everyone and can be viewed at Westwind Park and other various locations throughout the city. We hope all residents can enjoy a safe and patriotic celebration of our nation's freedom.

If you are currently in possession of any type of firework and wish to discard it, you may surrender all fireworks at any fire station in the city, no questions asked.