



4150 SOUTH 3900 WEST  
WEST HAVEN, UT 84401  
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## WEST HAVEN CITY

MAYOR  
Rob Vanderwood

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Ryan Swapp  
Kim Dixon  
Ryan Saunders  
Carrie Call  
Nina Morse

July 21, 2026

Jamie Barnes  
Utah State Forester  
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands  
1594 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

### **RE: Request for Expanded Fireworks Restrictions within West Haven City Utah**

Dear State Forester Barnes:

Pursuant to Governor Cox's Executive Order 2026-04 and the Utah State Forester's Order dated July 20, 2026, West Haven City and Weber Fire District jointly request that the State Forester prohibit the discharge of 1.4G consumer fireworks throughout the entire municipal boundary of West Haven City from July 22 through July 25, 2026.

This request is based on the combination of prolonged drought, low soil and vegetation moisture, cured grasses and other receptive fuels, current and forecasted weather conditions, significant wildland-urban interface exposure, and the potential for multiple simultaneous human-caused fires.

Although recent monsoonal moisture has increased humidity and produced localized rainfall, those conditions have not eliminated the underlying fire danger. Rainfall has been inconsistent across Weber County, and dry grass, brush, agricultural vegetation, riparian vegetation, and other fine fuels remain capable of ignition and rapid-fire spread. Forecasted thunderstorms also present the possibility of strong, gusty, and erratic outflow winds. These winds can cause a small fire to spread rapidly and carry embers toward homes before firefighting resources can contain it.

The fire in Roy (our next door neighboring municipality) on July 20, 2026, provides a current example of this risk. Based on the preliminary investigation, sparks generated along the railroad ignited multiple fires in dry vegetation. The fire spread into a residential neighborhood, destroyed three homes, damaged others, and required the evacuation of approximately 200 residents. While the investigation remains ongoing, the incident demonstrates that under the present conditions, a relatively small ignition can quickly become a destructive community fire.

Weber Fire District serves a large and geographically diverse area while continuing to provide normal structural fire, emergency medical, rescue, and wildland response services. The discharge of fireworks across multiple communities creates the potential for several

simultaneous fires that could quickly exceed immediately available local resources. National wildland preparedness is currently at Level 5, further reducing the certainty that additional state, federal, aviation, or mutual-aid resources would be immediately available.

### **Current Conditions and Risks of West Haven City**

West Haven contains extensive areas of dry grass, agricultural property, undeveloped land, canal and drainage corridors, and rapidly expanding residential development. Many neighborhoods directly border open fields or other receptive vegetation. The Weber River corridor and other vegetated areas can provide a continuous path for fire spread through or near developed portions of the city. The close proximity of homes to these fuels creates the potential for a grass fire to move quickly into fences, yards, outbuildings, and residences.

These conditions are further supported by the attached maps identifying the municipal boundary and applicable wildland-urban interface, burn probability, and/or wildfire hazard potential information. Homes, neighborhoods, businesses, and community infrastructure located next to receptive vegetation could be threatened by a fire originating from fireworks within or near the municipality.

Based on the current fuel conditions, ignition potential, weather conditions, available firefighting resources, and potential consequences of rapid fire spread, the Mayor of West Haven City and the Weber Fire District Fire Chief find that allowing personal fireworks presents an unreasonable and preventable risk to life and property.

For these reasons, we jointly request that the State Forester prohibit the discharge of 1.4G consumer fireworks throughout the entire municipal boundary of West Haven City, Utah from July 22 through July 25, 2026. Although our city has no current request, it will include professional fireworks displays properly licensed by the Utah State Fire Marshal Division and permitted by the appropriate local authority.

A map identifying the requested restriction area is attached. The city has also submitted this request and its supporting documentation through the State Forester's Expanded Fireworks Restriction Form.

Respectfully,

Mayor Rob Vanderwood  
West Haven City Utah

Britt Clark  
Fire Chief, Weber Fire District



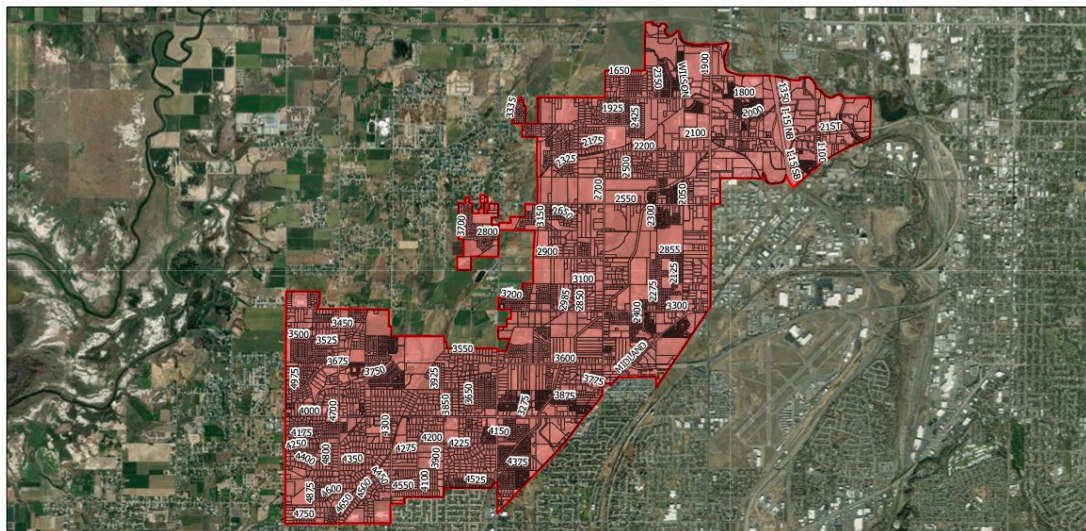
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West Haven City Firework Restriction Map 2026



7/21/2026  
— West Haven City Border  
Firework Restriction Area

1:54,000  
0 2,450 4,900 9,800 ft  
0 750 1,500 3,000 m

UGRC, Earthstar Geographics