



PORT OF KLICKITAT

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2014

DIY Fireworks At The Port

Bingen, Washington – The Port of Klickitat will again play host to the annual do-it-yourself fireworks event at Bingen Point the night of July 4. With the assistance and cooperation of the cities of Bingen and White Salmon, the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office, Fire District 13, and a number of volunteers, the Port provides a safe area for residents to use and enjoy their fireworks in order to reduce the threat of fire and injury.

At all other times of the year, the Port prohibits the use of fireworks anywhere on its properties. However, on July 4 between 8pm and 11pm it allows visitors to use legal fireworks in a section of Sailboard Park set aside for that purpose and invites the public to come and take part in the rambunctious celebration that has come to characterize the event.

“The Port is pleased to continue what has become a popular annual event and we're glad we can provide a venue where local residents can celebrate Independence Day safely and without risk to their communities,” said Executive Director Marc Thornsby.

In 2011 and 2013, small brush fires were started when people ignited fireworks in areas where they were not permitted.

Though both were put out before any serious damage was done, it was a sobering reminder of why the Port hosts the event, why fireworks are only permitted in a controlled area, and why it is important that fireworks be disposed of properly.

“We want everyone to have a good time without injury to themselves or others,” added Josh Mead, the Port's Maintenance Supervisor. “That's why we remind visitors that alcohol, drugs, weapons, pets, and illegal fireworks are prohibited, minors must be accompanied by an adult, and the use of fireworks is strictly limited to the hours of 8pm to 11pm on July 4 and only in the designated area. We also ask guests to properly dispose of their spent fireworks in the dumpsters and trash receptacles provided at the event site.”

Washington law (Chapter 70.77 RCW) controls the use of fireworks and permits many common types including fountains, Roman candles, shells, mortars, and sparklers. However, not all fireworks sold are legal to use. “Each year a few people purchase bottle rockets, firecrackers, missiles, M-80s, M-100s, or sky rockets mistakenly believing that if they can be purchased, they must be okay to use,” noted Thornsby. “Unfortunately, that's not the case. Because federal and tribal laws are not as strict, it's possible to legally purchase these fireworks on federal or tribal lands, then drive across an invisible line and find the same fireworks illegal to possess or use.” Many only find out when they arrive at the event and have these items confiscated.

At A Glance...

Who:.....Port of Klickitat

What:.....DIY Fireworks Event

When:.....July 4, 2014

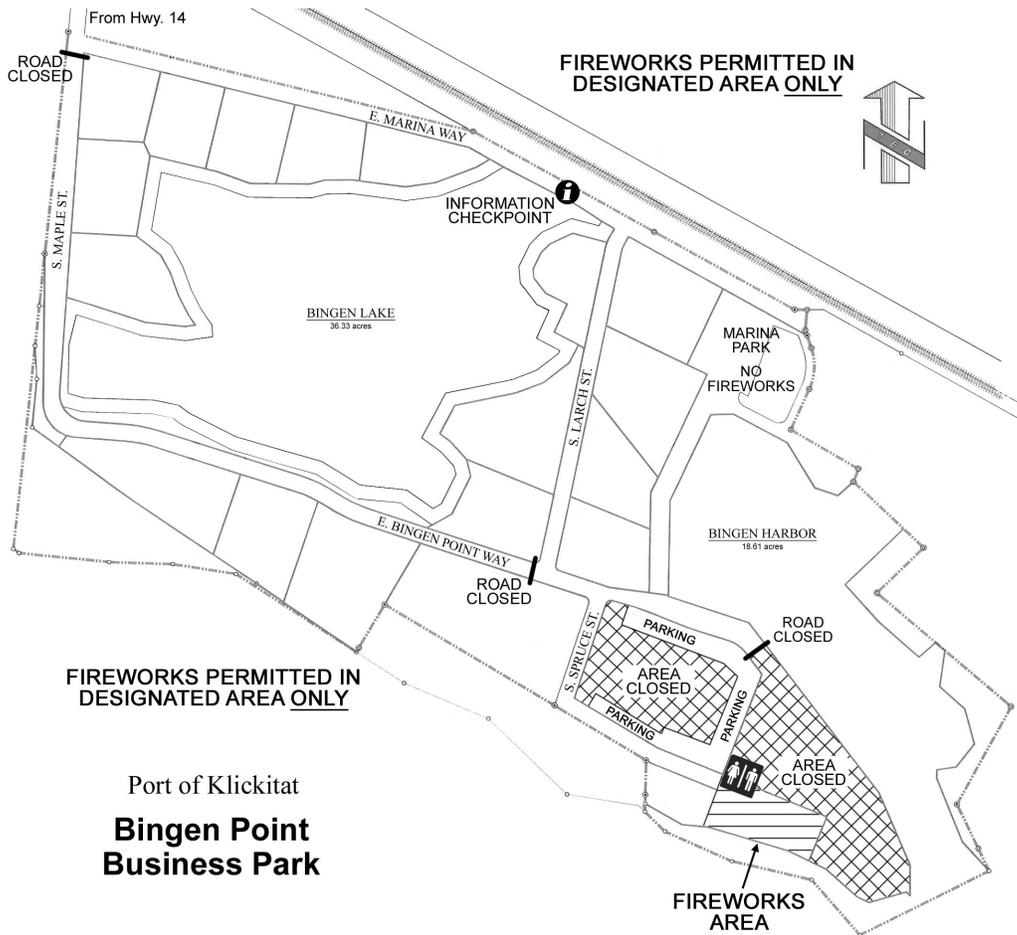
Where:.....Bingen Point

Quick Facts:....Port hosts do-it-yourself fireworks event from 8pm to 11pm on July 4. Visitors are reminded to leave alcohol, illegal fireworks, weapons, drugs, and pets at home.

For more information, please contact:

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State law makes it “unlawful for any person to discharge or use fireworks in a reckless manner which creates a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to another person or damage to the property of another.” Violations of state statute, county ordinance, or Port regulations can result in citation and/or removal from Port property. For links to more information on the event, legal and illegal fireworks in Washington, and state law regarding the use of fireworks, visit the Port's web site at www.portofklickitat.com.



About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at www.portofklickitat.com.

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