



**PORT OF KLICKITAT**

**For Immediate Release**

June 17, 2015

## DIY Fireworks At The Port

**Bingen, Washington** – As it has for the past eleven years, the Port of Klickitat will host 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 other volunteers, the Port provides a safe location for residents to use and enjoy their fireworks in order to reduce the threat of fire.

At all other times of the year, the Port prohibits the use of fireworks anywhere on its properties. However, on Independence Day between 8pm and 11pm it allows visitors to use legal fireworks in a section of Sailboard Park set aside for that purpose. “The Port is pleased to be able to provide a venue where local residents can celebrate our nation's independence without the risk of igniting their neighbor's home,” said Port Executive Director Marc Thornsby.

The 2014 event saw two small grass fires and a dumpster fire. All were promptly extinguished by firefighters stationed at the event before they could pose any threat to persons or property. However, it was a clear reminder of why the Port hosts the event and why fireworks are only permitted in a controlled area and for a limited time.

“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.”

In 2003, the cities of Bingen and White Salmon and the Port began discussing how they could reduce the threat of fire and still provide local citizens the opportunity to set off fireworks safely. The following year the event was launched and it has been popular ever since. “Still, there's occasional confusion as to exactly what the event is,” noted Thornsby. Though it provides a location and coordinates the volunteers that help support the event, the Port does not put on a traditional fireworks show such as the one in Hood River and it doesn't control how visitors set off their fireworks. “It's a strictly do-it-yourself party,” added Thornsby. “We expect attendees to use their fireworks safely and responsibly so as not to place others at undue risk.”

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

### At A Glance...

**Who:**.....Port of Klickitat

**What:**.....DIY Fireworks Event

**When:**.....July 4, 2015

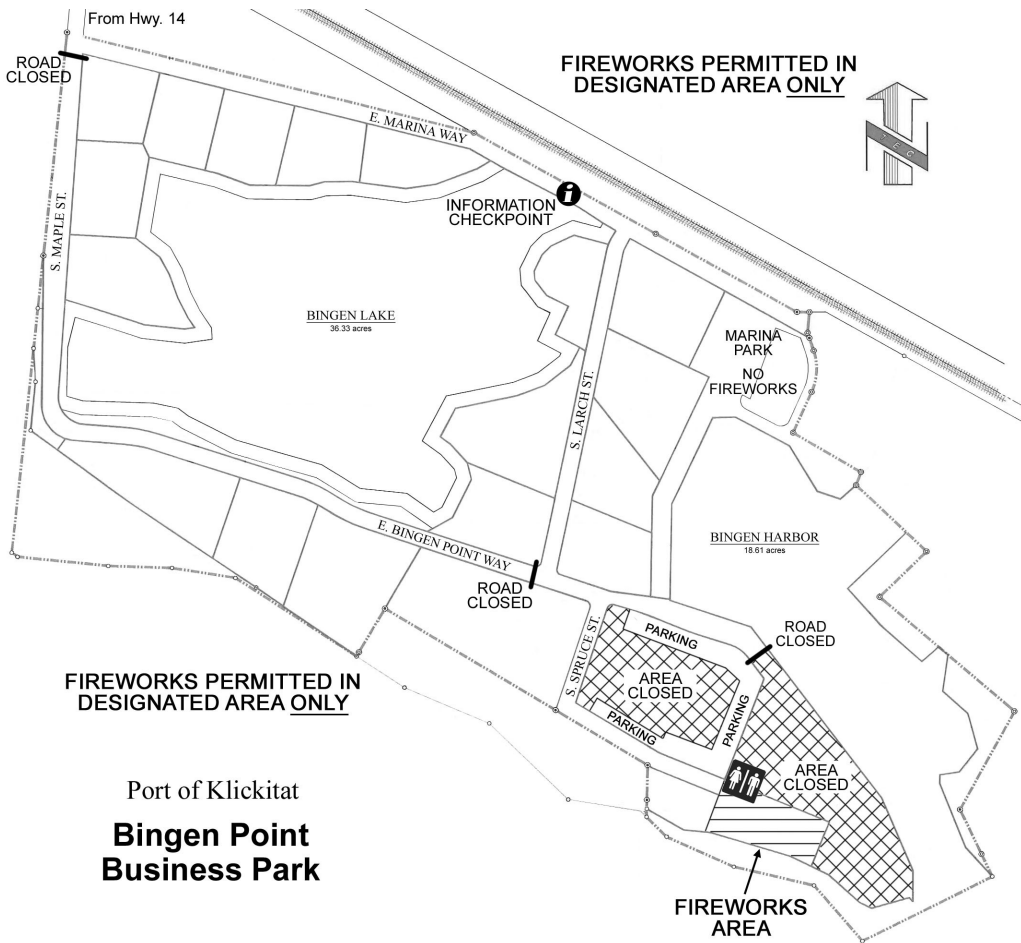
**Where:**.....Bingen Point

**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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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 Thornsbury. “Unfortunately, that’s not the case.” Because federal and tribal laws are not as strict, it is possible to legally purchase certain 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.



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](http://www.portofklickitat.com).

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**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](http://www.portofklickitat.com).

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