



Snohomish County Councilman Mike Cooper

## **Media Advisory – May 14, 2010**

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On Monday May 17, County Councilman Mike Cooper will introduce an ordinance calling for a ban of fireworks in unincorporated Snohomish County. The measure would make it unlawful for any person to sell, possess, use, transfer, discharge, ignite or explode fireworks. The county would be joining the cities of Edmonds, Everett, Mountlake Terrace, Mill Creek, Mukilteo, Gold Bar and Woodway in banning fireworks.

Cooper, a retired professional firefighter, says it is time to stop the property loss and injuries from fireworks. “I cannot stand by and watch as people continue to lose their homes or get injured from fireworks,” Cooper said. “In 2009 eight fires resulted in 4.27 million dollars property loss, the highest in our county’s history. That is unacceptable,” Cooper added. One fire on July 30<sup>th</sup> destroyed or damaged 4 homes under construction in southwest Snohomish County.

Under state law, the county must pass a ban 1 year before the effective date. Cooper is asking the council to hold a hearing and pass the measure in June so it can be enacted in 2011.

“I know there will be opposition from the industry and other groups, but it is time to put public safety ahead of profit and pass this measure,” Cooper said. “I look forward to the council passing this law and making our county a safer place.”

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