

Public Display Safety Tips

The fire service is usually responsible for the public's safety when a large-scale fireworks display is presented. The actual firing of the display should be conducted by a trained pyrotechnic operator and crew. These certified and trained professionals know and comply with all state and local fireworks regulations.

The following safety tips should help make the display more enjoyable to the public, as well as make the display as safe as possible:

- * Spectators should obey all ushers or monitors and respect the safety barriers set up to allow the trained operators room to safely do his job. Resist any temptation to get close to the actual firing site. In fact, the best and safest view of the fireworks is from a quarter of a mile or more away.
- * Although it rarely happens, it is possible that a firework component might fall to the ground without exploding. The public should be cautioned not to touch these fireworks. If they happen to find any which have not exploded, they should immediately contact the local fire or police department.
- * Pets have very sensitive ears and the booms and bangs associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable - - particularly to dogs. In fact, the noises can actually hurt their ears. Leave pets at home if you are going to a fireworks display.
- * Leave the lighting of all fireworks to the trained operator when you attend a public display. Sparklers, fountains and other items that many states allow for use by individuals are not appropriate to use when a large crowd is present. Leave your own fireworks at home - the display will provide plenty of excitement.

It is extremely important to know the difference between a legal consumer firework and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters are not fireworks, they are explosives that are federally banned explosives. They can cause serious injury or even death. Stay away from anything that is not clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacture's name and instructions for proper use.

For this Safety Awareness Bulletin, the American Pyrotechnics Association has provided helpful information regarding Fireworks Safety, Facts & Figures and an overview of various State Laws. For additional information regarding Fireworks safety, please contact:

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Fourth of July - Safety Tips

To help you celebrate safely this Fourth of July, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following **SAFETY TIPS:**

- * Always read and follow the label directions
- * Have an adult supervise all fireworks activities
 - * Buy from reliable fireworks dealers
 - * Always ignite outdoors in open areas
- * Have a source of water supply or a fire extinguisher handy
- * Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks
 - * Light fireworks one at a time
 - * Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
 - * Never give fireworks to small children
 - * Store in a cool, dry place
 - * Dispose of properly - in a metal container
 - * Never throw fireworks at another person
 - * Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- * Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers