

Fireworks Safety Tips Factsheet

HS05-031B (6-09)

Fireworks have become the main part of many celebrations such as, 4th of July and New Year's. Consumer Fireworks, also known as 1.4G Fireworks, are usually sold at neighborhood stands during holidays. Display Fireworks, also known as 1.3G Fireworks, are used in larger community displays run by licensed professionals called pyrotechnicians. The main ingredient in fireworks is black powder, also known as gunpowder, therefore making fireworks dangerous. They are classified as hazardous substances under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. There are strict guidelines for the manufacture, transportation, and storage of fireworks. Employers and workers who coordinate the commercial display of fireworks and retail sales of fireworks should always practice safety.

Display Operators

- Make sure workers are trained and competent.
- Obtain required licenses, permits, and inspections.
- Maintain display site security and communications.
- Wear protective gear and proper clothing.
- Eliminate accidental ignition sources.
- Properly install mortar boxes, racks, and drums.
- Keep fireworks cartons closed.
- Always handle fireworks carefully.
- Stay away from loaded mortars.

Retail Fireworks Sales

- Keep building exits clear and accessible.
- Know all exit routes out of the building or stand.
- Maintain view of fireworks.
- Know alarm procedures.
- Know fire extinguishers location and operation.
- Remove and dispose of damaged fireworks.
- Use only non-sparking tools; do not use vacuum cleaners.
- Do not allow smoking within 50 feet of building and fireworks.
- Keep facilities secure.

Consumers

Consumers who buy and use fireworks should always practice safety when shooting them. Before using, learn the local or county requirements for use of Consumer

Fireworks. The Consumer Firework has 50 mg of explosive material (about the size of half an aspirin tablet), the legal limit. Any item containing more than 50 mg is illegal and should be avoided such as Cherry Bombs, M-80's and Silver Salutes, which were outlawed by Federal Law. If seen being sold or used, call the local law enforcement or fire service.



- Always buy fireworks from an established retail outlet.
- Always read and follow label directions.
- Always have an adult present.
- Only ignite fireworks outdoors in cleared areas away from houses, buildings, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Keep water handy for fires and emergencies.
- Never experiment or attempt to make homemade fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks; soak them in water and throw away.
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Never throw fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- Wear eye protection when shooting fireworks.
- After shooting them, soak fireworks in water before putting them in the trash.

This factsheet was published with information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) Alliance, National Council on Fireworks, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC).

The Texas Department of Insurance,
Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI, DWC)
E-mail resourcecenter@tdi.state.tx.us
or call 1-800-687-7080 for more information.

Safety Violations Hotline
1-800-452-9595
safetyhotline@tdi.state.tx.us