

FIREWORKS SAFETY

*Fireworks are beautiful and add fun and excitement to holiday celebrations.
But before your family celebrates, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.*

Be Fireworks Smart Before, During and After Using Fireworks



- Buy only **legal fireworks** (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarterpounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- **Illegal explosives** associated with the fireworks season are inherently dangerous because of their composition and unpredictability. Homemade explosives can pose a particular risk for injury because the people making them often lack knowledge and experience in manufacturing fireworks. Most law enforcement agencies consider devices such as M-80s, M-100s, quarter sticks, cherry bombs, silver salutes, etc., to be illegal because they exceed the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) limits for consumer fireworks, in addition to being banned by many States. These devices meet no safety standards and often have a coating of dangerous explosive dust. Friction, heat, or being bumped can cause these devices to detonate.

Some indicators that a device may be an illegal explosive are:

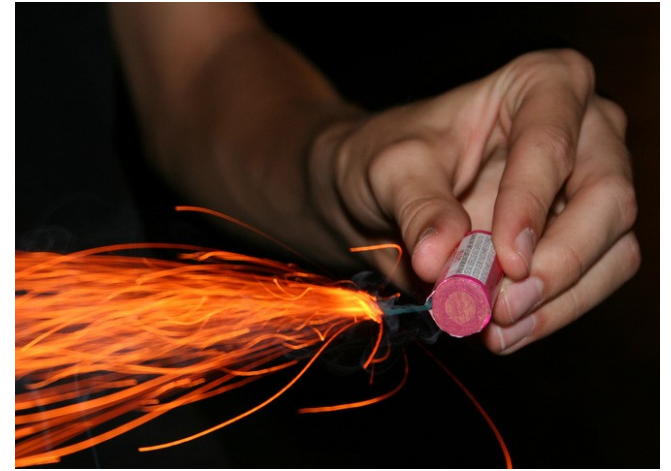
- It resembles a roll of coins with a fuse.
- It consists of a cardboard tube or oddly shaped item wrapped in brown paper and filled with an explosive material.
- It is red, silver, or brown in color
- It may be 1 to 6 inches long and up to an inch or more in diameter.
- It is sold on the street or out of the back of someone's vehicle.

BOTTLE ROCKETS  Motor: 1/4" in Diameter Stick: 1-1/2" Long Color: Varied	CHERRY BOMBS  Approx: 7/8" in Diameter Color: Red	M-100's  3/4" in Diameter 2" Long Color: Red or Tan
FIRECRACKERS 1/4" in Diameter 1-1/2" Long Color: Often red, red & White, or Blue and white 	M-80's  5/8" in Diameter 1-1/2" Long Color: Usually Red, yellow or Tan	

Safety Tips

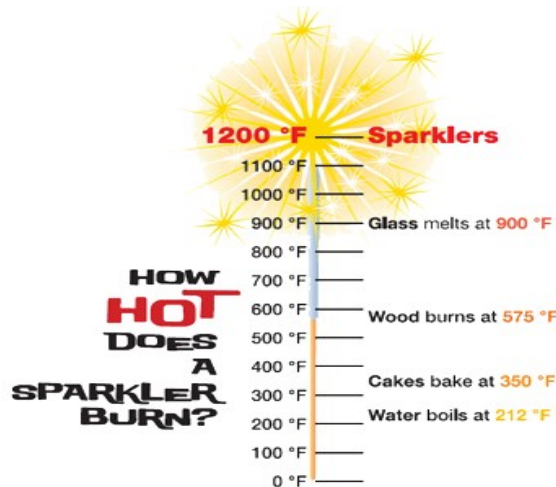
To those citizens who **do** intend to purchase and use fireworks during the upcoming holiday, we offer the following fireworks safety suggestions:

- ▶ Always read and follow the label directions carefully.
- ▶ Always have a garden hose or water bucket nearby for medical emergencies and/or to douse spent or misfired fireworks.
- ▶ Adults should always supervise fireworks activity.
- ▶ Quickly light one firework at a time, and move away quickly after lighting.
- ▶ Steer clear of others — fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- ▶ Keep fireworks away from small children.
- ▶ Do not alter or make your own fireworks.
- ▶ Fireworks should be placed on a hard, smooth surface prior to ignition. **NEVER** light fireworks in your hand.
- ▶ After displays, never pick up fireworks that may be left over.
- ▶ Fireworks that have been ignited and fail to immediately explode or discharge can cause injury, as they may still be active.
- ▶ Children should always tell an adult if they find fireworks rather than picking up smoking or charred fireworks themselves.
- ▶ Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed when fireworks are being used.
- ▶ Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.



Remember the following special fireworks safety tips for **SPARKLERS**:

- ⇒ Children under the age of 12 should not use sparklers without *very close* adult supervision.
- ⇒ Always remain standing while using sparklers.
- ⇒ Never hold a child in your arms while using sparklers.
- ⇒ Never hold, or light, more than one sparkler at a time.
- ⇒ Sparklers and bare feet can be a painful combination. Always wear closed-toe shoes when using sparklers.
- ⇒ Sparkler wire and stick remain hot long after the flame has gone out. Be sure to drop the spent sparklers directly in a bucket of water.
- ⇒ Never hand a lighted sparkler to another person. Give them the unlit sparkler and then light it.
- ⇒ Always stand at least 6 feet from another person while using sparklers.
- ⇒ Show children how to hold sparklers away from their body and at arm's length. Never throw sparklers.
- ⇒ Teach children not to wave sparklers, especially wooden stick sparklers, or run while holding sparklers.



Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush and leaves and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.

Injuries

- ▶ If a child is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital.
- ▶ If an **eye injury** occurs, don't allow your child to touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage.
- ▶ Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention — your child's eyesight may depend on it.
- ▶ If it's a **burn**, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.

Lighting fireworks at home isn't even legal in many areas, so if you still want to use them, be sure to check with your local police department first.

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe.



PREVENTION BUREAU
ST. TAMMANY FIRE DISTRICT 12

EDUCATE • INSPECT • PREVENT



The information provided within is intended to be used as guidelines and recommendations to promote life safety.