

Fact Sheet



Fireworks, Pyrotechnic Effects, Flame Effects A Guide for Consumers

For many in Utah, the use of fireworks has become a tradition. The beautifully colored sparks fly through the air in concert with thunderous reports.

As exciting as this may seem, people often forget that they are playing with explosive materials, dangerous chemicals and combustibles that can destroy property, harm or cause death to unsuspecting victims. These deceptively simple objects explode, throwing unburned powder, hot sparks and embers through the air at high velocities and often create temperatures hotter than 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit.



In Utah from 2002 to 2006, 367 fireworks related fire incidents were reported, resulting in over \$490,000 loss. The safest way to enjoy the thrill of fireworks, pyrotechnic displays and flame effects is to let the professionals handle these products and attend a public fireworks display, a concert where pyrotechnics react to show design or professional, community or local displays.

For fireworks enthusiasts who enjoy shooting their own this year, there have been some significant changes in Utah fireworks laws that go into effect this firework season.

Please, pay particular attention to safety recommendations and safety tips from manufacturers and retailers who sell fireworks. Reading instructions this year will be significantly important and necessary to help reduce the chances of a destructive fire or debilitating injury.

- Purchase fireworks from reliable, licensed fireworks dealers. Read all instructions to help reduce the chances of a destructive fire or debilitating injury. Follow all safety guidelines exactly.
- Children should not handle fireworks. You must be at least 16 years of age to handle or light fireworks. Adults are to supervise any activity that includes fireworks. *Never let children handle, play with or light fireworks.* Only knowing and clear-headed adults should handle fireworks.
- Adults should never use alcohol or drugs or be impaired while engaged in handling, using, placing or lighting fireworks.
- New aerial type fireworks are now lawful. Aerial devices, also known as “multiple tube”, “repeater”, or “cake” fireworks often look like miniature professional displays and can travel high into the air, as much as 150 feet.



- These fireworks need sufficient space from trees, carports, structures, power lines or other high or low obstacles. Aerial or “cake” fireworks need at least a 30 foot clearance around on the ground and at least 150 foot clearance in the air.

- Not allowed still are: firecrackers, M-80’s, cherry bombs, Bottle-rockets, roman candles, single or reloadable mortars, and ground salutes are still unlawful. All local, state and federal laws must be adhered to.

- Use common sense at all times when handling fireworks. Do not alter, change or experiment with makeshift or any firework device and do not allow others to violate the law.

- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place. Do not place fireworks in your pockets.

- Only use fireworks out of doors. Never play with, set or light fireworks under a carport or overhang, inside a building or compartment.

- Never shoot fireworks in windy conditions.

- Keep a bucket of water or running hose nearby during the time of lighting and disposing of fireworks and in case of an emergency.

- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks. Keep all unused fireworks 30 feet away from the shooting area.

- Make sure other people are out of range at a reasonable distance before lighting fireworks. Do not point or throw fireworks at people, animals or where they may not be under proper control. And remember, sparklers burn at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. They can be an extremely dangerous device in the hands of children and are deceptive in nature and can cause serious burns and injuries if not cared for properly.



- Light fireworks one at a time. Do not attempt to light multiple fireworks at any time. Do not relight a firework whose fuse has burned away. Do not attempt to repair broken fireworks. Soak fireworks that did not ignite in a bucket of water. Light the firework and then get away quickly.

- Keep clear of the firework. Never place a body part above or around a burning firework. Never pickup a burning firework. Never look into the tube or stay close to the burning end of the device. Never hold a lit firework in your hand.

- Use caution with animals. Excitement, noise and lights can cause fear and stress.

Fireworks are an American tradition. Safety and common sense are so important as we celebrate the holidays with fireworks. Shooting fireworks can provide hours of wholesome family entertainment, but must be use carefully and safely.