



## FIREWORKS SAFETY



The Fourth of July is approaching and the *Frederick County Fire Marshal's Office* would like to take a moment to remind the community about fireworks safety. Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, and when used in a safe manner can be a BLAST! Please read the following safety precautions to ensure that your Fourth of July celebration is a safe one.

1. **CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HANDLE FIREWORKS.** NEVER LET CHILDREN HANDLE, PLAY WITH, OR LIGHT ANY FIREWORKS. ONLY ADULTS SHOULD HANDLE AND LIGHT THE FIREWORKS.
2. **FOLLOW THE LAWS; USE COMMON SENSE** Fireworks sold in Frederick County have been approved by the Fire Marshal. Illegal fireworks include anything that explodes, emits a flame or spark higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile. For a complete list of LEGAL fireworks [follow this link](#).
3. **ALWAYS USE FIREWORKS OUTSIDE.** Fireworks are intended for outside and should only be used in a safe area clear of flammable materials. Have a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of accidents.
4. **USE COMMON SENSE.** Always keep the audience (and particularly children) a safe distance away from the shooting site. Always light your fireworks in a clear open area away from buildings, vehicles, and shrubbery. Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
5. **KEEP CLEAR OF THE FIREWORKS.** Do not hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection and avoid carrying fireworks in your pockets.
7. **USE CARE WHEN LIGHTING FIREWORKS.** Always light fireworks with punk sticks or an extended butane lighting device. This will enable you to keep as far from the firework item as possible. If needed, use a flashlight at night so the fuse can be easily seen; never use a lantern or other flame-producing device near fireworks for illumination. Light the fireworks product and get away quickly. Respect the fireworks, because if used improperly, they can be dangerous.
8. **ONE AT A TIME.** Light only one firework item at a time. NEVER relight a dud! Let the failed firework stand for at least five minutes, then immerse it in water.



9. **FIREWORK REMAINS.** Do not allow your children to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time. After lighting fireworks, hose down the remains to ensure they are out.
10. **NEVER USE AS WEAPONS.** Never aim, point, or throw any fireworks at another person or at any property.
11. **THINK ABOUT YOUR PET.** The noise and lights of fireworks often frighten some animals, so it is very important that you are careful with pets and farm animals. You may want to consider moving the animals away or keeping them inside during your display. Please be considerate of your pets and animals when using fireworks.
12. **NEVER MIX ALCOHOL & FIREWORKS.**  
Have a "designated shooter."
13. **CHECK FIREWORK LABELS**  
Always read and follow label directions. If the label is missing or doesn't match the firework, DO NOT use the firework. It may have been tampered with or could be faulty.

