

Celebrate Safely This Fourth of July

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2005, an estimated 10,800 people were treated in U.S. emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries (Greene & Joholske 2006). The U.S. National Fire Protection Association and CDC strongly recommend that fireworks be used only by professionals.

When do these injuries happen?

Typically, 60% of injuries from fireworks in the United States occur in the month surrounding the July 4th holiday (Greene & Joholske 2006).

What types of fireworks cause injuries?

Between June 18 and July 18, 2005, firecrackers, sparklers, and rockets accounted for most of the injuries seen in emergency departments. Sparklers were associated with over half of the estimated injuries among children under 5 years, during the same time period (Greene & Joholske 2006).

Who is likely to be injured?

During the month around Independence Day (July 4th), children 14 years and younger sustained about 45% of injuries related to fireworks (Greene & Joholske 2006).

What kinds of injuries occur?

Injuries from fireworks most often affect the hands, eyes, and the head, face, and ear (Greene & Joholske 2006).

Under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, the federal government banned the sale of the largest and most dangerous fireworks to consumers. Some states have banned the general public's use of fireworks altogether. Between 2000-2005, more than one third of the fireworks-related deaths involved professional devices that were illegally sold to consumers (CPSC 2006). The safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Get Involved!

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia's community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District	Main:.....(202) 698-0555..... TTY: 727-8506
	Substation:.....(202) 698-0068..... TTY: 543-2352
2nd District	Main:.....(202) 715-7300..... TTY: 364-3961
3rd District	Main:.....(202) 673-6815..... TTY: 518-0008
	Substation:.....(202) 576-8222..... TTY: 576-9640
4th District	Main:.....(202) 715-7400..... TTY: 722-1791
5th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0150..... TTY: 727-5437
6th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0880..... TTY: 398-5397
	Substation:.....(202) 698-2088..... TTY: 281-3945
7th District	Main:.....(202) 698-1500..... TTY: 889-3574

Know Something About a Crime? Don't Keep It a Secret

If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (888) 919-2746 (CRIME) or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see www.mpd.cdc.gov/tipline.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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FOR YOUR SAFETY



Fireworks: Some Facts and Safety Tips

*Get the facts about the law and fireworks in D.C. and
how to handle them safely*



Bold, beautiful, colorful, loud. And illegal.

Many of the fireworks available for purchase at roadside stands are illegal in the District of Columbia. Setting off certain types of fireworks is dangerous in an urban setting with the cluster of dense housing and flammable materials.

Before you purchase an expensive haul of fireworks, make sure that you can legally ignite and use them in the District. In general, any firework that explodes is illegal in the city. Any person found using or in the possession of illegal fireworks in the District of Columbia could face fines and penalties of up to \$2,000 and/or arrest for further prosecution.

Characteristics of Illegal Fireworks

An illegal firework as defined in Article 27 of the DC Official Code may have any of the following traits:

- » Any firework that moves
- » Any firework that explodes
- » Any firework that emits a spark or flame greater than 12 feet
- » Any firework that has a side-mounted fuse or a fuse inserted at any point along the length of the product's surface
- » Any firework that contains mercury (Hg), arsenic (Ar), magnesium (Mg), phosphorus (Ph), or any other highly-oxidizing agent
- » Any firework that the Fire Marshal considers to be dangerous to the safety of any person or property
- » See the table above for specific examples of illegal fireworks

Reporting Illegal Fireworks

To report the use or sale of illegal fireworks, contact the DC Fire/EMS Department's Fire Prevention Division at (202) 727-1600 or (202) 727-1614.

If you are aware of fireworks being set off in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 to have police and fire personnel investigate the situation. Specially-trained teams will respond to ensure that any fireworks being set off are legal and safe. These teams are also inspecting fireworks stands operating in the District of Columbia for compliance with the law.

Get More Safety Tips

For tips on other ways to stay safe from crime in your daily life, see the other brochures in this series, available from our Website at www.mpdc.dc.gov/safety. Or visit your local police district. To find the one nearest you, visit www.mpdc.dc.gov/districts.

PROHIBITED*	PERMITTED+
Firecrackers of any kind or description	Any firework specifically excepted in this article
Any firework that explodes, such as cherry bombs, salutes, Roman candles, floral shells, artillery shells	Toy paper caps containing not more than twenty-five hundredths (0.25) of a grain of explosive composition per cap
Any firework intended to move after the piece is placed and fired; such as bottle rockets, parachutes, buzzbombs, pinwheels, helicopters, jumping jacks	Sparklers not more than 20 inches (50mm) in length
Sparklers more than 20 inches (50mm) in length	Torches, cones
Any firework that contains mercury, arsenic, tetryl, phosphorous, sulphocyanide, magnesium, potassium picrate, gallic acid, chlorate of potash and sugar, or any highly oxidizing agent	Box fires, fountains
Any firework having a side fuse, or a fuse inserted at any point along the length of the firework	Dip-sticks, non-poisonous snakes
Any firework found by the code official to be dangerous to the safety of persons or property	Paper novelty items, colored lights

***Prohibited Fireworks:** (Article 27, DC Register, F-2700.1.1): The manufacture, storage, display, sale, setting off, or discharge of any firework listed in this column is prohibited in the District of Columbia.

+**Permitted Fireworks:** (Article 27, DC Register, F-2700.1.2): The fireworks in this column are permitted to be stored, displayed, sold, delivered, used, and possessed in accordance with the provisions of this article.

The Fire/EMS Department seizes illegal fireworks products that are discovered in the District and destroys them after 30 days.

Whether you're celebrating Independence Day or the New Year, a backyard barbecue or other family occasion, it is important to understand the laws regulating fireworks use in the District of Columbia. Use the chart below to become familiar with the fireworks that are permitted and prohibited in DC.

