



Vermont Department of Public Safety DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

1311 US Route 302, Suite 600, Barre, VT 05641-2351 * 800-640-2106



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www.firesafety.vermont.gov

Fire Safety Sheet

HOT TOPICS

VERMONT
STATE
FIRE MARSHAL

Fireworks Safety

Fireworks are dangerous and unpredictable, especially in the hands of amateurs. Public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals and supervised by local fire departments are a good alternative to personal fireworks use. These displays are the smartest and safest way to enjoy fireworks.

In Vermont all fireworks (not including Sparklers and other novelty smoke devices) are illegal except for permitted, supervised public fireworks displays.



Vermont Explosives and Fireworks Law

Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 177: Explosives And Fireworks Subchapter 3: Fireworks § 3132. Prohibitions; permits

(a) Except as provided in this section, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, co-partnership, or corporation to do any of the following:

(1) Offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail or wholesale, or possess fireworks unless the person has been issued a permit by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in addition to the municipality in which the person offers for sale and stores the fireworks.

(2) Use, possess, or explode any fireworks unless the person has been issued a permit to display fireworks pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(3) Transport fireworks except in interstate commerce.

(4) Offer for sale or sell hand-held sparklers as described in subdivision 3131(1) of this title to a minor.

(5) Offer for sale or sell sparklers that are not in compliance with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission regulations.

Under Vermont law, officials can seize illegal fireworks and you can be fined up to \$100.00 per violation and/or arrested.

It's also important to remember that you can be held civilly liable for damages resulting from improper use of any fireworks - legal or illegal.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMITS

Any display for which a permit is issued shall be handled by a competent operator to be approved by the chiefs of police and fire departments of the municipality in which the display is to be held and shall be of a character, and so located, discharged or fired as, in the opinion of the chief of the fire department, or in a municipality with no fire department, the selectboard, after proper inspection, shall not be hazardous to property or endanger any person or persons.

Application for permits shall be made to the chief of the fire department, or in municipalities with no fire department, the selectboard, in writing, at least 15 days in advance of the date of the display.

After the permit has been granted, sales, possessions, use and distribution of fireworks for the display shall be lawful for that purpose only. No permit granted shall be transferable.

Illegal fireworks include "bottle rockets," Roman candles, rockets with sticks, mines and shells, helicopter-type rockets, missile-type rockets, revolving wheels, fountains and firecrackers.

SPARKLER SAFETY TIPS

To help ensure that everyone enjoys a safe summer, the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, the National Council on Fireworks Safety, NFPA and your local Fire Department offer the following safety tips:

- Obey the local laws and use common sense.
- Always read and follow instructions. Always have an adult present.
- Keep burning sparklers away from clothing and flammable objects.
- Only use sparklers outdoors, away from buildings and vehicles.
- Light only one sparkler at a time.
- Alcohol, fireworks and sparklers do not mix. Be responsible.
- Do not point or throw sparklers at another person
- Children under the age of 12 should not handle sparklers.
- When finished, place used sparklers in a bucket of water.

Despite efforts to educate people about the hazards of fireworks, problems with personal use still continue. Some people still conduct backyard fireworks displays despite laws against their use and the great danger to themselves and others.

Individuals concerned about neighbors using fireworks are reminded that Fourth of July festivities result in increased activity for all public safety agencies, i.e., crowd control, fires, traffic issues, etc. Because resources are limited, priority must be given to truly hazardous situations.

Individuals with a fire or medical emergency should call 9-1-1; other situations should be reported via the non-emergency number.

Additional information and fire safety education material on back

Fireworks Safety

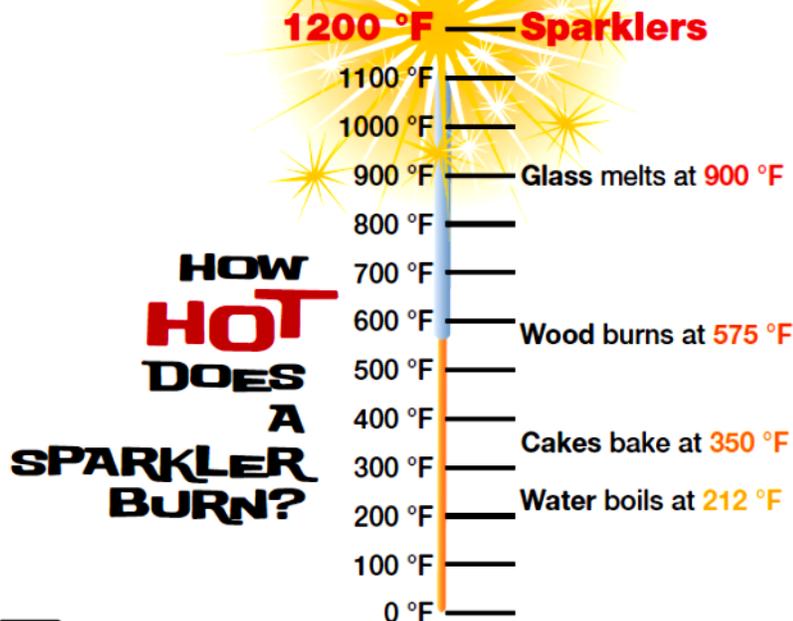
Fireworks during the Fourth of July are as American as apple-pie, but did you know that more than twice the number of fires are reported on that day than on any other day of the year in the United States? Two out of five of these fires are caused by fireworks. The good news is you can enjoy your holiday and the fireworks, with just a few simple safety tips:

PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

- » Leave fireworks to the professionals. Do not use consumer fireworks.
- » The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.
- » After the firework display, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over, they may still be active.

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

include sparklers and firecrackers. The tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than **1,200 degrees Fahrenheit**, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns.



FACTS

- ! Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks.
- ! The risk of fireworks injury is highest for children ages 5–14.
- ! More than 80% of emergency room fireworks injuries involve fireworks consumers are permitted to use.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education