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EMERGENCY 9 - 1 - 1



Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and never use any fireworks at home. They may be legal but they are not safe. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2018 five people died and over 9,100 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for 36 percent of the estimated injuries. Similar to 2017, nearly half of the estimated emergency department treated, fireworks-related injuries were to individuals younger than 20 years of age. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 33% were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

The Garfield Police Department would like to see the public report illegal use of fireworks as we approach the Fourth of July holiday.

Illegal fireworks include: Firecrackers, skyrocket, bottle rockets or other aerial devices, Roman candles, etc. Individuals under age 16 are prohibited from purchasing or possessing **any** type of fireworks.

Unfortunately, persons 16 years or older may purchase hand-held sparklers, ground based sparklers and novelty party poppers and snappers in retail stores.

If you choose to use these legal fireworks, please follow these safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eye wear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks. Summonses for violations will be issued and can carry a fine of up to \$500.

Help keep our neighborhoods safe. Report the illegal use of fireworks by calling: 973-478-8500. Officers will investigate the complaints and issue summonses for any person possessing illegal fireworks.

- www.garfieldnj.org -



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FIREWORKS

consumer brief

On the 4th of July, Independence Day, Americans celebrate their patriotism with family reunions, picnics and beautiful displays of fireworks nationwide. Unfortunately, every year, this happy celebration turns into tragedy for many Americans due to the unsafe and illegal use of fireworks.

Fireworks displays must be enjoyed responsibly – and within the confines of the law. In New Jersey, it is unlawful to sell, possess, or use fireworks, other than certain sparkling devices and novelties, without a valid permit.

STATISTICAL INJURIES

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, the federal agency tasked with protecting the public from defective products, in a special study about fireworks found that in the year 2018:

- **67% of all fireworks injuries** were sustained during the 30-day period surrounding the **Independence Day holiday**;
- **5,600 injuries occurred nationwide due to fireworks**, most often with burns to the hands and head, including to the eyes, face, and ears;
- **36% of the injuries** reported occurred to **kids under the age of 15**; and
- There were **five reported deaths**.

The majority of fireworks injury reports involve emergency room treatment and release, but the more severe and fatal injuries were associated with the consumer's use of professional-grade and homemade fireworks. In the four reported deaths involving fireworks, the victims were killed when the illegal devices exploded causing severe bodily trauma.

FIRES

Fires are another result of the use of fireworks by inexperienced people. According to the National Fire Protection Association, on Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other causes of fire.

The Association reports that on average each year, fireworks cause an estimated 18,500 reported fires:

- 1,300 total structural fires;
- 300 vehicle fires; and
- 16,900 outside and other fires.

These fires cause an annual average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries and an estimated \$43 million in direct property damage.

NEW JERSEY AND FIREWORKS

Under the New Jersey Explosives and Fireworks Act (N.J.S.A. 21:2-1 et seq., as amended by P.L.2017, C.92):

- **It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, possess, or use fireworks** anywhere in the State without a valid permit. However, recent changes to the law now permit persons 16 years of age or older to lawfully buy, possess and use certain sparkling devices and novelties. These permissible fireworks are limited to hand held or ground based sparklers, snakes, and glow worms; smoke devices; and trick noisemakers, including party poppers, snappers, and drop pops. The sale, possession and use of all other fireworks requires a valid permit.
- **The valid permit** must be issued by any municipality after receiving an application in writing and the posting of a bond, for the display of fireworks, by municipalities, religious, fraternal or civic organizations, fair associations, amusement parks, or other organizations or groups of individuals approved by the municipality;
- **The chiefs of the police and fire departments must approve the permit**;
- **An identification number** and the specific type of fireworks to be used must be stated on the permit. The permit shall name one person who shall be authorized to purchase, or otherwise order, and receive delivery of any fireworks.
- A person is **guilty of a crime of the fourth degree** if he or she sells, offers or exposes for sale, or possesses with intent to sell, any fireworks, other than sparkling devices and novelties to persons 16 years of age or older.

Continued

800-242-5846 › New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov



– A person is **guilty of a petty disorderly person's offense** if he or she purchases, uses, discharges, causes to be discharged, ignites, fires or otherwise sets in action, or possesses fireworks without having the required permit.

Any business that advertises, offers to sell or sells fireworks to residents of New Jersey is required to clearly and conspicuously disclose that fireworks, other than sparkling devices and novelties, are illegal to possess or use in New Jersey without a valid permit. Failure to do so would constitute a **violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act** and its regulations.

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.

- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying them or using them
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.



Consumers can contact the
Division of Consumer Affairs
by calling:

(toll free within New Jersey)

1-800-242-5846

or **973-504-6200**



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GROUND BASED SPARKLING DEVICES & NOVELTIES ARE NOW LEGAL IN NEW JERSEY

DE-REGULATED NOVELTIES

<h3 style="text-align: center;">SPARKLERS</h3>  <p style="text-align: center;">Sparkling Devices: MORNING GLORIES</p> <p>CAUTION: FLAMMABLE USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT TOUCH HOT WOOD. HOLD IN HAND WITH ARM EXTENDED AWAY FROM BODY. KEEP BURNING END OR SPARKS AWAY FROM WEARING APPAREL OR OTHER FLAMMABLE MATERIAL. HOLD AND LIGHT ONE DEVICE AT A TIME. AFTER USE PLACE WOOD IN WATER.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sparkling Devices: WIRE STICK SPARKLER</p> <p>CAUTION: FLAMMABLE USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT TOUCH GLOWING WIRE. HOLD IN HAND WITH ARM EXTENDED AWAY FROM BODY. KEEP BURNING END OR SPARKS AWAY FROM WEARING APPAREL OR OTHER FLAMMABLE MATERIAL. HOLD AND LIGHT ONE DEVICE AT A TIME. AFTER USE PLACE WIRE IN WATER.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">SMOKE DEVICES</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">-Emits Cloud of Smoke-</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Smoke Balls</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Smoke Cone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Smoke Candle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Smoke Balls, Toy Smoke Devices</p> <p>CAUTION: FLAMMABLE USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. PLACE ON LEVEL SURFACE. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">NOVELTIES</h3>  <p style="text-align: center;">SNAKES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRACK PELLET (MITS) BLACK ANTS</p> <p>CAUTION: FLAMMABLE USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. DO NOT PUT IN MOUTH. FINGER OR ARMOR ON AGAINST HARD SURFACE. NOT RECHARGEABLE. FOR FIRE SETS UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PARTY POPPER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EMITS SHOWERS OF CONFETTI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PARTY POPPER - BOTTLE TYPE</p> <p>CAUTION: FLAMMABLE USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. DO NOT POINT OTHER END TOWARD FACE OR OTHER PERSON. HOLD IN HAND. PULL TO RELEASE SHARPLY.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PARTY POPPER - PISTOL TYPE</p> <p>CAUTION: FLAMMABLE USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. DO NOT POINT OTHER END TOWARD FACE OR OTHER PERSON. HOLD IN HAND. PULL TO RELEASE SHARPLY.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">MAY NOT HAVE MORE THAN 0.25 GRAMS OF PYROTECHNIC MIXTURE</p>
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PERMITTED "NON-AERIAL" SPARKLING DEVICES

<h3 style="text-align: center;">GROUND SPARKLING DEVICES</h3>  <p style="text-align: center;">BALL & DISK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPINS ON GROUND. EMITS FLAME AND SPARKS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CYLINDRICAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ground Blaze Flowers / Candy Ground Eggs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPINS ON GROUND. EMITS FLAME AND SPARKS.</p> <p>CAUTION SPINS ON GROUND. EMITS FLAME AND SPARKS. USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. PLACE ON HAND, FLAT SURFACE. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">SPARKLING Wheel DEVICES</h3>  <p>CAUTION SPINS ON POST. EMITS FLAME AND SPARKS. USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. NAIL TO POST OR STAKE SO THAT WHEEL WILL TURN FREELY. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">GROUND BASED SPARKLERS UP TO 300 GRAMS</h3>  <p style="text-align: center;">Cylindrical</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Square</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">California Rocket Shaped Fountain</p> <p>CAUTION Emits Showers of Sparks. USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. PLACE UPRIGHT ON GROUND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND.</p> <p>CAUTION Emits Showers of Sparks. USE ONLY UNDER CLOSE ADULT SUPERVISION. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. STICK FIRMLY IN GROUND IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION. REMOVE CAP FOR LIGHTING. DO NOT HOLD IN HAND. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">MAY NOT HAVE MORE THAN 500g OF PYROTECHNIC MIXTURE.</p>
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PROHIBITED "AERIAL" CONSUMER FIREWORKS - NEW JERSEY
 except as part of a Permitted Public Fireworks Display.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SKY ROCKETS / BOTTLE ROCKETS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARNING FLAMMABLE ROCKET</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FIRECRACKERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARNING EXPLOSIVE</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">RELOADABLE SHELL DEVICE / ROMAN CANDLES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARNING SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">AERIALS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARNING SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS W/REPORTS</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">SINGLE TUBE DEVICE WITH REPORT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARNING SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS w/ reports</p>	