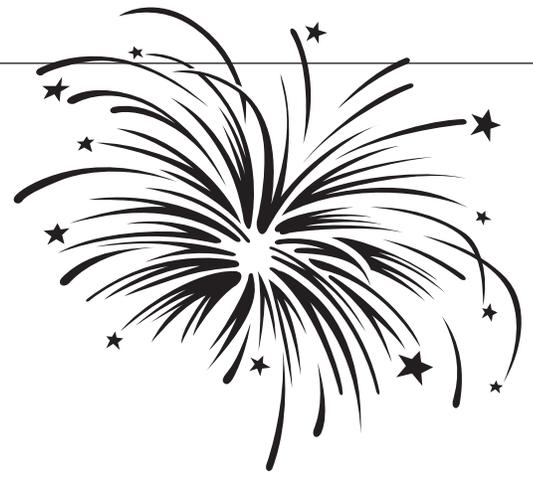


# Be Smart... Leave Fireworks to the Professionals



## **Enjoy Supervised Professional Fireworks Displays**

Local fire departments supervise professional fireworks displays all over Massachusetts. Unfortunately, children and adults continue to set off illegal fireworks that start fires and cause serious injuries to themselves and others.

## **Fireworks Can Be Deadly**

A 45-year old Gloucester woman died in a December 22, 2003 house fire when someone threw fireworks and ignited a Christmas tree in the living room. Three other people were injured. On May 20, 1997, a 26-year old man from Watertown was killed while he was lighting fireworks in a hallway. A 27-year old Framingham man was killed on July 4, 1993, when backyard fireworks exploded in his face. On July 4, 1992, fireworks fatally injured a 30-year old man on a Fairhaven beach.

## **All Fireworks Are Illegal in Massachusetts**

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane fireworks." Class C fireworks include sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners, cherry bombs and more. Sparklers burn at 1800°F.

It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated on the spot.

## **Do Not Purchase Fireworks through Mail-Order or Online Catalogs**

Do not purchase fireworks by mail. Government cannot prohibit the advertising and sale of fireworks by mail, but police do confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks. Many consumers attempting to circumvent the law have lost both their money and their fireworks.

## **Set a Good Example for Children**

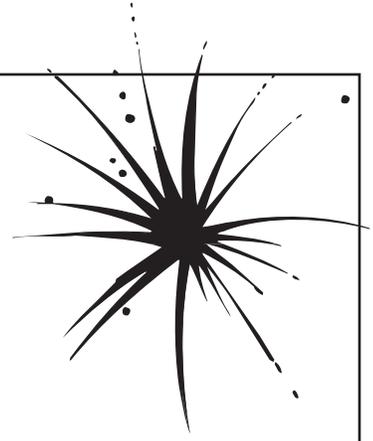
Children imitate adults. If you use fireworks, children will copy you, not realizing how very dangerous fireworks are. Forty-two percent, (42%), of fireworks-related burn injuries reported by hospitals to the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the last 10 years (2009-2018) were to children under age 18. Almost thirty-percent, (29%), were children under age 10.

(over)



**FireFactors**

Office of the State Fire Marshal • [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) • (978) 567-3380



## **Fires Caused by Fireworks**

In the past decade (2009-2018) there have been 800 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). The incidents caused 12 civilian injuries, 39 fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.5 million, which is high considering most fireworks fires are outdoor brush fires.

- On June 25, 2018, the Lynn Fire Department responded to a fire in a six-unit apartment building. The fire was started by people setting off fireworks in the street. One ricocheted onto the second floor porch and ignited combustibles. The fire extended up and out to the rest of the second and third floors. Thirty-four firefighters were injured at the fire.
- On July 2, 2018, the Worcester Fire Department was called to a fire in a three-unit apartment building. The fire was started by fireworks igniting trash in a first floor doorway.
- On July 3, 2018, the Dartmouth District 1 Fire Department responded to a fire on the pier at Anthony's Beach. Fire crews discovered many fireworks on and around the pier after the fire was extinguished.
- On July 4, 2018, the Agawam Fire Department responded to a brush fire. The fire was started by three juveniles who were playing with fireworks.
- On July 5, 2018, the Lynn Fire Department was dispatched to a car fire on Tracy Avenue. The fire was started by fireworks.

## **Burns and Injuries Caused by Fireworks**

In the past decade (2009-2018), 38 people were treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burns injuries from fireworks (burns covering 5% or more of the body) according to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS). Fifty-five percent of the victims were under age 25. These victims are scarred for life.

- On July 3, 2018, a Marshfield boy was injured by fireworks while on the beach in Brant Rock. The 10-year old suffered burns to both legs when an illegal firework exploded near him and his father.
- On July 6, 2018, the Mansfield Fire Department was called to a fireworks explosion (with no ensuing fire). A man lost part of his hand when the firework he was holding exploded.
- On July 14, 2018, the Tewksbury Fire Department was dispatched for an EMS call for a fireworks injury. A man lost parts of his fingers when a firework he was holding exploded.
- On August 10, 2018, the Brockton Fire Department was dispatched for a fireworks explosion that injured a 25-year old man. The man lit a "cherry bomb" and it exploded in his left hand.

